

## UF Voices

### IFAS helps make UF a better university

Wednesday is National Agriculture Day. To mark the occasion I'd like to explain how the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, or IFAS, helps make UF one of the nation's top public universities.



Jimmy Cheek

IFAS is comprised of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. These three entities provide education, research and public outreach, respectively.

Many universities do not have comparable programs. UF and Florida A&M are Florida's only land-grant institutions. By federal law, they are responsible for supporting the state's agricultural and natural resource industries, which have a \$97.8 billion annual economic impact.

IFAS gives UF a presence in all 67 Florida counties, thanks to our extension service and 19 research and demonstration sites. A new Web site, Solutions for Your Life, [www.solutionsforyourlife.com](http://www.solutionsforyourlife.com), provides vast online resources to state residents.

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences boasts the sixth-largest undergraduate enrollment and fourth-largest graduate enrollment of any college of its type nationwide.

In research, IFAS is among the 20 institutions worldwide publishing the most scientific papers on agriculture and natural resources topics.

IFAS helps make UF a national leader in academic disciplines such as genetics, food safety, alternative energy, climate change, organic agriculture, nutrition, aquaculture, invasive species management, emerging pathogens, growth management and water quality.

And our faculty will collaborate with UF experts from across campus, via new interdisciplinary programs such as the UF Genetics Institute, Water Institute and the Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy.

For all these reasons and many more, IFAS' faculty, staff and students will take special pride in their work tomorrow. But every day they strive to make Florida a better place to live and UF one of the nation's best public universities.

Jimmy G. Cheek  
Senior Vice President  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Top Stories

### UF's diverse campus eateries sure to satisfy any hunger

Suppose you just got out of class. You're starving and must eat before you head to your next class.

Where do you go?

Or, imagine you're working and a colleague from across campus calls to suggest you get together for a quick lunch.

Where do you meet?

The answer to each of these questions depends on where you are on campus and how much time you have.

The University of Florida offers so many diverse choices, there's no need look any further the next time you're searching for something to eat.

If you're close to the Reitz Student Union, you're in luck. Gator Dining Services features many of the popular national fast-food restaurants like **Wendy's**, **Subway** and **Taco Bell** on the second floor. You can grab a quick bite and head outside to a scenic area like the North Lawn or take a minute to relax in the open food court.

For more international fare, try

**Capeesh** for traditional Italian or the Asian-inspired **Noodle Bar**.

When you're tired of fast food but still want something quick, try the **Orange & Brew**. On the ground floor of the Reitz Student Union just steps away from the variety of entrees like tropical lime tilapia at the Latin Kitchen or oven-roasted turkey at the American Bistro.

Choices like the grilled Portobello burger and vegetable jambalaya at the Vegan Corner helped UF

make the Peta2 list of the most vegetarian-friendly universities in the country. Breakfast is \$5.43 and lunch or dinner is \$7.43. Students with a meal plan simply slide their Gator1 cards. Faculty and staff now have a similar option with their own membership plan.

and enjoy selections like Salisbury steak and salmon pasta alfredo.

Closer to the east side of campus? Head over to **The Fresh Food Company** at Broward Dining Center. A good place to find healthier options, diners may select from a variety of entrees like

To view menus and hours, visit the Web at [www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining](http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining)

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For a less expensive, outdoor vegetarian option, try the buffet served every weekday by the Hare Krishna Student Center on the lawn at the Plaza of the Americas. Enjoy homemade vegetarian choices, usually with curry, salad with almond dressing, and coconut cake for a suggested donation of \$3.

You don't have to make that long trek up the hill when you're hungry and down by Shands Hospital. Eat at **Einstein Bros. Bagels** or **Chick-fil-A** on the recently renovated Sun Terrace. There is also another food court northeast of the atrium on the first floor, where you can choose from **Pizza Inn**, **TCBY** or **Wendy's**.

If you're going toward the park-and-ride lot near Southwest 34th Street and want something more upscale, try the **Camellia Court Café** at the Harn Museum of Art. Spinach-stuffed mushrooms or crab cakes may satisfy your hunger for under \$10.

To view menus and hours, visit the Web at [www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining](http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining).

By Panagiota Papakos



Nissa Benjamin

Cathy Steiger, Lindsey DeHayes, Brittani Carr and Joan Steiger share a laugh over lunch in the Orange & Brew on the ground floor of the Reitz Student Union.

## 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 [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. Events, dates, times and programs are subject to change.

**March 20**  
2 p.m., "Phenylketonuria: Gene Therapy, Enzyme Therapy, or?" Philip J. Laipis, Cancer & Genetics Research Complex, Room C/G 101

5 p.m., "Reframing the Erotic: Literary Change in Hindi, 1900-1930," Valerie Ritter, Grinter Hall, Room 471

**March 22**  
Noon, "Oxygen Sensing and the Evolution of Neural Circuits," Mario de Bono, McKnight Brain Institute, DeWeese Auditorium

4 p.m., "Comparative Physiology of Arterial Wave Reflections," Wilmer Nichols, Florida Gym, Room 35

**March 26**  
4:05 p.m., "The Effects of Vitamin K on Bone Mineral Density," Jessica Kroll, CSE E121 Building

**University Auditorium**

**March 20**  
7:30 p.m., Kyle Rowan, composition recital

**March 21**  
5:30 p.m., John Jenkins, trombone recital

7:30 p.m., Melissa Beard, vocal recital

**March 22**  
7:30 p.m., Jazz Band concert

**March 23**  
12:50 p.m., School of Music convocation  
3 p.m., Sen. John Kerry

## In Focus

### \$80,000 scholarship aiding doctoral student's butterfly research

Limited research budgets are a thing of the past for Emily Saarinen.

That's because the University of Florida doctoral candidate is the recipient of an \$80,000 research scholarship from the Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program.

Saarinen is one of eight researchers in North and South America to be awarded the prestigious scholarship, which is sponsored by Canon U.S.A. Inc., the U.S. National Park Service and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The grant has allowed Saarinen to present her research at various conferences, pay her two assistants, and cover her lab and field costs.

"The grant is an absolute dream come true," said Saarinen, whose research centers on discovering why the Miami blue butterfly, a once-prominent species in the coastal counties of South Florida, has recently become endangered.

"We hope that our work with the Miami blues will



The once-prominent Miami blue butterfly is now endangered.

serve as a model organism for other endangered species," she said.

Her study focuses on discovering the factors that have caused the species to disappear so quickly. During the 1960s, there were populations of Miami blue butterflies in 16 counties in South Florida, but by the 1990s, the species was considered extinct. In November 1999, two naturalists discovered one last population in the Bahia Honda Key State Park.

"We are especially interested in creating a model for butterflies and other invertebrates since there is such limited research on them," she said.

Saarinen is specifically interested in exploring the role that inbreeding has had on the species. Using samples from historic Miami blue butterflies preserved in the Florida Museum, Saarinen compares the genetic makeup of historic butterflies with the molecular DNA of the population currently living in the state park. Because inbreeding reduces the genetic diversity of a species, it could be one of the explanations for why the species has deteriorated so quickly.

A team of lepidopterists, researchers who study moths and butterflies, has successfully raised 25,000 Miami blue butterflies in the McGuire Center in Gainesville.



Jaret Daniels

Emily Saarinen works in the Miami blue laboratory at the McGuire Center. The cups contain nickerbean, the foodplant for caterpillars and Miami blue caterpillars.

Since 2006, Saarinen and several other UF researchers have been periodically releasing the butterflies in Biscayne National Park in hopes that they will eventually spark a new colony of butterflies there.

"Our ultimate goal is to restore the Miami blue butterfly so that it doesn't need our help to survive," Saarinen said.

By Mindy Morris

## Seen & Heard

### Kerry to speak at town hall forum

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., will be on the University of Florida campus on March 23 to take part in a town hall forum and question-and-answer session on U.S. involvement in Iraq beginning at 3 p.m. in the University Auditorium.

Tickets to the free event will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Only one ticket per person will be given out. UF faculty, staff and students with valid Gator1 identification cards may pick up tickets in person at the box office beginning at noon today. Tickets for the general public will be available at the box office beginning at noon Wednesday.

Kerry is the current chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee. He has served 19 years on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has experience in national security issues in the areas of



Sen. John Kerry

terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Kerry also ran in the 2004 election as the Democratic presidential candidate against President George W. Bush.

The forum is sponsored by ACCENT Speakers Bureau. For more information, call 352-392-1665, ext. 306, or visit the Web at [www.sg.ufl.edu/accnt](http://www.sg.ufl.edu/accnt), or e-mail [accnt@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:accnt@sg.ufl.edu).

### Harn's Family Day offers new look at African art

Visitors to the Harn Museum of Art's Family Day on Saturday will discover common elements that connect international contemporary artwork and create artwork inspired by the African exhibitions currently on display.

"A New View: Contemporary African Art" will examine African art from past and present through the exhibition "Continuity and Change: Three Generations of Ethiopian Artists," specifically looking at the mixed media pieces by Zerihun Yetmgeta titled "Wax and Gold" and "Yesterday and Today." Following the tour and discussion, guests will create their own contemporary artwork through segmented panel self-portraits using fabric, fabric pens and wood.

Family Day runs from 1 to 4 p.m. Ad-

mission is free. For more information, call 352-392-9826 or visit [www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu) on the Web.

### U.S. circuit judge to speak at law college

U.S. Circuit Judge Rosemary Barkett of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals will deliver the 2007 Dunwoody Distinguished Lecture in Law at 11 a.m. Friday in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom at the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Barkett, who earned her J.D. from UF in 1970, was the first woman justice on the Florida Supreme Court, sitting as an associate justice from 1985 to 1992. In 1992, she became the state's first woman to serve as the chief justice of that court.

As the first woman in the state's Supreme Court, Barkett encountered a number of unusual problems. One issue was her official title. Justices traditionally had been addressed as "Mr. Justice." Barkett, however, said she simply preferred to be called "Justice Barkett." The other justices on the court dropped the "Mr." from their titles.

In 1994, Barkett resigned from the court when President Bill Clinton named her to the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

**Phillips Center**  
**March 20-25**  
7:30 p.m., "Mamma Mia!"

**March 24-25**  
2 p.m., "Mamma Mia!"

**March 27**  
7 p.m., Black Female Extravaganza

**March 28**  
7:30 p.m., Jacaré Brazil

**March 30**  
7:30 p.m., "Madame Butterfly"

**March 31**  
7:30 p.m., AntiGravity



## Note This

### HPC Center doubles its computing capacity

The High Performance Computing Center at the University of Florida now has 1,600 CPUs to better serve the high-performance computing needs of UF researchers. This number is up from 800 in 2006.

The HPC Center is the result of a faculty-driven effort to bring state-of-the-art computing resources to all faculty and their research groups. The effort was started in 2003 with a 400 CPU cluster. The center's computing power since has grown significantly.

The CPU cluster supports work in a number of areas. These range from gene matching to protein folding to chemical structure. The cluster is also key to chemical engineering and to studies of fluid dynamics, structural mechanics and computer networks.

### Involvement Portfolio aids resumé building

For students drafting resúms who have difficulty remembering all the activities they have taken part in at the University of Florida, the Involvement Portfolio may help.

The Involvement Portfolio is provided by the Reitz Student Union to help students keep track of their involvement in activities through the use of an ongoing online log. The service is available to any student with a valid Gatorlink name and password.

After making entries in the log, students can organize the portfolio by placing each activity under one of the broad categories provided on the Web site. This allows students to quickly organize the information for a resumé and provides them with a useful tool to identify weak areas in their involvement.

To access the Involvement Portfolio, visit [www.union.ufl.edu/involvement/portfolio](http://www.union.ufl.edu/involvement/portfolio) on the Web.

### Reitz board taking committee applications

Student applications for Reitz Student Union Board committees will be accepted until 5 p.m. Wednesday in Room 330 of the Reitz Student Union. Student board members get hands-on experience in programming, event planning and publicity by working on any of the five committees: live music; lecturers/comedians; special events; film; and public relations.

Applications are available online at [www.union.ufl.edu/rub](http://www.union.ufl.edu/rub) or in Room 330 of the Reitz Student Union.