

InsideUF

Your campus news source

Produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students of the University of Florida

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UF Voices

We all play a role in education of students

"Welcome to Journalism 3101," I told the 20 anxious students in the classroom. "I am your lab instructor for this term. You may call me Ms. Rodgers."

This semester, in addition to my duties as managing editor of InsideUF, I am teaching a section of an introductory reporting class in the College of Journalism and Communications. I didn't have to take on this extra responsibility. But I am happy to do it.

As employees of the University of Florida, I believe we each have a role in educating students. It doesn't matter if you have "professor" or "instructor" as part of your official title or whether or not you work in an academic unit. We are all teachers.

Reporting students at UF are required to seek out and write news stories on deadline on a weekly basis. They are expected to interview sources and to report their stories accurately and fairly for possible publication in a newspaper or news magazine.

Some of my students have shared with me a few of the problems they have had in getting interviews with UF administrators and other employees. I understand all too well how little time we each have in our workdays to do our jobs. To take time to talk to a student reporter may seem impossible.

I do hope if you are asked for an interview by a student in a reporting class — or a student from any other college in any other capacity — that you will do your best to grant the request. Each one of us at some point in our lives has been a student seeking information. Keep in mind how much courage it may take for a student to approach you in the first place.

"Thank you. End of lecture."

Joy L. Rodgers
Managing Editor
InsideUF

Top Stories

UF's cultural venues abound in little-known places

A look beyond the Cultural Plaza near 34th Street reveals several art venues nestled throughout the University of Florida campus. Whether you're searching for a different way to pass time between classes or you simply want to explore something off the beaten path, you can find a wide range of artistic talents on view in unexpected yet convenient places.

"The Gallery" on the second floor of the Reitz Student Union features submitted artwork by students, faculty, staff and alumni. Exhibitions and performances are chosen to promote public awareness of contemporary art. Upcoming exhibits include work from ceramic students, art that addresses issues about the war in Iraq, and an annual art exhibit supported by the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women.



Jessica Orłowski's "When the Tough Breaks..."

Grinter Hall, just east of University Auditorium, houses the Grinter Gallery on the first floor. An endowment from Linton and Constance Grinter provided this unique

venue that features art with a multicultural focus. Each show is curated by a museum studies graduate student from the

School of Art and Art History. An African exhibition featuring pieces from the private collections of professors and the Harn Museum will be on display until the summer.

"It offers a view inside the region," said Nicholas Frech, the guest graduate student curator at Grinter Gallery who is completing his doctorate in Ethiopian arts. "They have this stylistic unity, and I think that's evident in the show."

The University Gallery in Building B of the Fine Arts Campus Complex is the place to stop for a look at modern art. An important component of the teaching and research at the School of Art and Art History, the gallery's six exhibitions a year bring current ideas in contemporary art to the Gainesville community. The contemporary design and high ceilings provide a backdrop for exhibitions designed to enhance and challenge students in the school of art while also providing a venue for thesis exhibitions.

For a closer look at student work, walk over to the Focus Gallery in the main lobby of Fine Arts Building C. This 850-square foot space also presents exhibitions of invited artists' work in a vibrant venue. The shows change monthly and offer opportunities for curatorial experience to faculty members and graduate students in the museum studies graduate program.

"It's really a great space," said Amy Vigilante, director of the University Galleries in the College of Fine Arts. "So many people walk right by and don't even know we're here."

For more information about UF's smaller art venues, visit the Web at www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries/ or www.union.ufl.edu/gallery/.

By Panagiota Papakos



Thaddeus Erdahl's "Gator Guy"

UF hosts international symposium on African art

The College of Fine Arts, the School of Art and Art History and the Center for African Studies will host the 14th Triennial Symposium on African Art by the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA) at the University of Florida's Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.

From March 29 to April 1, "Global Africa" will highlight the role of African and Diaspora arts in international and transcultural exchanges. Some panels will focus on contemporary African art, while others will discuss the classical arts of the continent.

Besides the panels and discussions, the Harn Museum Bishop Study Center will show a number of African films. Okwui Enwezor, dean of academic affairs and senior vice president of the San Francisco Art Institute, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m. Thursday in the University Auditorium.

The Harn Museum of Art is home to one of the largest collections of African art in the southeast U.S. For more information or to register for the symposium, visit the Web at www.doce-conference.ufl.edu/acasa.

Assistance," Center for European Studies conference, Anderson Hall Room 216

April 2
4 p.m., "Imagining the Puerto Rican Nation from Within the Diaspora," Edna Acosta-Belén, Reitz Student Union, Rion Ballroom

4:05 p.m., "Naturally Occurring Immune Substances in Milk," Dylan Hagerty, CSE E121 Building

University Auditorium

March 27
7:30 p.m., Clarinet Ensemble concert

March 28
7:30 p.m., Lena Cuglietta, saxophone recital

In Focus

UF student strives to enrich lives of Ugandans through books

After a summer research trip to Uganda led him to discover the country's great need for educational resources, University of Florida geography doctoral candidate Joel Hartter decided to do something about it by helping to establish a foundation to support libraries in rural villages in the western part of the country.

Hartert and two post-doctoral fellows from the University of California, Davis, set up the Foundation for Children's Education in Uganda, which accepts donations of new and used books and magazines.

The foundation currently supports four libraries and is working to fund more in villages throughout western Uganda. The libraries serve as a haven where Ugandans may read textbooks, novels and educational magazines written at various reading levels.

"Our most popular English-language books are written at a middle-school level," Hartter said. "Most people only advance about as far as seventh grade, so that's their average reading level."

The people still tend to prefer books written in the local language Rutoro, except on story days, during which the library welcomes entire families to come and listen to stories read aloud in English, Hartter said.

Besides providing people access to

books, the foundation also is dedicated to the education of women and children.

The foundation supports a nursery school to prepare Ugandan children, ages 3 to 7, for primary school. While attending classes, students are taught English, which is the official language, in addition to the local language Rutoro.

The nursery maintains a class size of about 30 students, with one village teacher who is paid by the foundation. The cost of enrollment is about \$2 per term, a little more than the average Uganda worker makes each day.

Women also may attend classes to learn vocational skills like sewing, a traditionally male-dominated trade, and handicrafts. The foundation strives to offer both teaching and librarian positions to women to create job opportunities.

"We want to give these people a chance at a better life," Hartter said. "Right now the best way we can do that is through education."



Joel Hartter is pictured amid a sea of donated books he has collected for Uganda libraries.

Kristen Bartlett

Hartert continues to raise both books and awareness for the foundation. Last year's book drive netted 600 pounds of books, he said.

To help or for more information about the Foundation for Children's Education in Uganda, visit booksopentheworld.org on the Web, or contact Hartter at jhartter@ufl.edu.

By Mindy Morris

Seen & Heard

New UF research center to improve powerful computers

A new national research center led by the University of Florida will explore technologies that could revolutionize high-performance computing, a field crucial in areas of science ranging from space exploration to weather forecasting to medicine.

The NSF Center for High-Performance Reconfigurable Computing established by the National Science Foundation will seek solutions to the increasingly urgent problems confronting today's powerful computers underlying science and business. The center's goal is to develop new methods so next-generation computers can "morph" or adapt their internal hardware structure to best achieve the task at hand. That would make them faster, and more energy-efficient, compact and versatile.

The center is headed by Alan George, a professor of electrical and computer engineering. It is the first U.S. research center devoted to reconfigurable computing and the first NSF center in the electrical and computer engineering department at UF.

It operates as a consortium, with research conducted by participating universities and guided by federal and industry members.

Florida Players to present 'Godspell'

"Godspell," the first of two musicals to be staged by Florida Players this spring, will begin its limited run on March 28 with a special preview performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre on the University of Florida campus.

Based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, "Godspell" explores the book's parables in a modern setting. Director Alisha Giampola, a senior theater major, said the UF production will be a simpler version of the original stage show and will focus on the words and music that writer John-Michael Tebelak and composer Stephen Schwartz created more than 30 years ago.

"Godspell" runs through April 1, with free performances at 7:30 p.m. March 29, 30 and 31, and 1:30 p.m. March 31 and April 1. All shows will take place in the Na-

dine McGuire Black Box Theatre. Tickets may be reserved by sending an e-mail to tickets@floridaplayers.org.

UF faculty given mentoring awards

Five faculty members have been recognized by the University of Florida for their work as advisers to master of fine arts and doctoral students.

The Graduate School Doctoral Mentoring Awards are given out yearly to faculty who have demonstrated excellence in their mentorship of graduate students.

This year's recipients are: Lawrence C. Dodd, eminent scholar, political science; Christopher A. Janiszewski, professor, marketing; Harry S. Nick, professor, neuroscience; Anthony Oliver-Smith, professor, anthropology; and Panos M. Pardalos, distinguished professor, engineering.

For more information on the program or this year's winners, visit the Web at <http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/personnel/mentoring.html>.

Phillips Center

March 27
7 p.m., Black Female Extravaganza

March 28
7:30 p.m., Jacare Brazil

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

March 31
7:30 p.m., AntiGravity

April 1
4 p.m., "Les Folie Russes"

O'Connell Center

March 28
8 p.m., Comedian Lewis Black

Note This

Midori, McDonald reschedule UF performance

The Midori and Robert McDonald concert originally scheduled for March 18 has been rescheduled to 7:30 p.m. April 28 in University Auditorium.

Patrons may use their tickets for the earlier performance for the rescheduled date and time. Ticket holders who wish a refund as a result of this change may get one at the point of purchase.

Tickets for the April 28 concert are available by calling the Phillips Center Box Office at 352-392-2787 or by calling Ticketmaster at 904-353-3309. Tickets are also available at the Phillips Center Box Office, University Box Office at the University of Florida Reitz Student Union and all Ticketmaster outlets; and on the Web at www.ticketmaster.com.

HRS to move to new building

Human Resource Services plans to move to its new location at 903 W. University Ave. (formerly the BellSouth Building) in April. All HRS offices currently located in Stadium West, the Academic Personnel Office in Tigert Hall, and the Education and General/Auxiliaries satellite office at the Reitz Student Union will be housed at the new site.

All HRS phone numbers will remain the same and the HRS Web site will continue to serve UF employees as a resource for current information on benefits, job opportunities, training and other human resource services.

For information on the HRS move, visit the Web at www.hr.ufl.edu/servicecenter/.

Instructors sought for First-Year Florida

Faculty and staff interested in teaching a First-Year Florida class in the Summer B, Fall 2007 or Spring 2008 academic sessions have until March 30 to apply.

Each instructor receives a \$500 professional stipend for teaching the class, which is designed to introduce new students to the University of Florida and help them through their first year by providing a social, emotional and intellectual support system.

Applications, including a recommendation letter, must be received by New Student Programs, 202 Peabody Hall, P.O. Box 114075 no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday.

For more information, visit the Web at www.dso.ufl.edu/nsp/firstyearexperience/instappl.php.

InsideUF

Send submissions for publication consideration at least two weeks in advance to insideuf@ufl.edu.

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