

## New home and theater provide hope for Tanzanian orphans

Watching Tanzanian orphans perform acrobatics at the TunaHAKI Centre in Moshi, University of Florida architecture associate professor Donna Cohen knew the design project before her was much more than a building, it was an opportunity to give the children a space to learn art skills and become part of their community.

"It was inspiring to watch the children perform," Cohen said. "I also directed them during a workshop and was moved by their enthusiasm and spirit."

TunaHAKI Centre is a home for orphans, started by Tanzanian artist David Ryatula and his wife Mary. The orphans are taken off the streets and given food, shelter, medical care and a complete education, as well as a chance to participate in arts like acrobatics and drama. While the center has rescued more than 100 children from the streets of Moshi since 1998, the orphans currently live in a rental home without running water, a proper kitchen or adequate drainage.

Cohen and her partner, UF research associate for historic preservation Claude Armstrong, first learned of the opportunity to design a sustainable home and cultural center for the orphanage through



Donna Cohen  
TunaHAKI Centre founder and director David  
Ryatula shares a new book with the children.

Architecture for Humanity. The nonprofit organization seeks architectural solutions to humanitarian crises, and brings design services to communities like Moshi.

Armstrong + Cohen Architecture was chosen from more than 40 firms who applied to design the theater and cultural center. The Finnish firm Hollmen Reuter Sandman Architects will design the children's residence.

"Our sustainability curriculum is strengthened by projects like this, as faculty incorporate their research into their courses. Students have the opportunity to

gain a global perspective on sustainability and the built environment," said Christopher Silver, dean of the College of Design, Construction and Planning. The college provided a research grant for the team's first trip to Tanzania this summer.

"This international collaboration allows us the opportunity to work on contemporary architecture in a culturally significant site," said Cohen, emphasizing that the partnership is successful because everyone agrees the most fundamental design principle is the necessity of acting locally.

The design team will focus on local production techniques and materials, in an effort to support the local economy. The project also will provide opportunities for job training for older children at the center. The hope is that the techniques used in the design of the home and theater will serve as a model for other orphanages in Tanzania.

"It's important that we are not simply importing our ideas and technology. For the project to be sustainable – to live on and be replicated – it has to integrate with local production and processes, and at the same time, embody aspirations for the future," said Cohen.

By Julie Frey

## UF Voices

### To University of Florida students

Congratulations on the upcoming conclusion of your fall semester! Being a student at the University of Florida is a great opportunity, and the rest of your time here is going to be one of the greatest memories of your life. From classes to basketball season, there will never be a dull moment, and your Student Government (SG) is dedicated to providing even more opportunities to expand your horizons and get involved during your time here.

There are any number of ways to take advantage of the services and activities that SG provides for students. You can use credit cards on campus, study late in Library West during exams, find exciting programming through the Cabinet calendar and help choose the speakers and performers brought to campus by ACCENT and Student Government Productions.

With that said, we want SG to be accessible to any student who wants to get involved. Just because we're halfway through the year doesn't mean that there aren't positions available and improvements to be made!

Communication is crucial. We have been working hard this year to improve the University of Florida for you, but we still want to know what else we can make better. With that in mind, I encourage any students who have questions, suggestions or concerns to get in contact with your representatives. Vice president Vanessa Goodwin, treasurer E.J. Walicki and I are always available for students to discuss issues.

With student input and communication, even more tangible results are inevitable. Whether it's student government, an organization or a class that you love, the University of Florida is here to provide fond memories and a step on the road towards a great future. Continue to make the most of your time here, and Go Gators!

Ryan Moseley  
Student Body President



Ryan Moseley

## Top Stories

### UF experimental gardens flourish into family affair

The sign hanging in their office reads "Garden More, Work Less," but twin sisters and environmental horticulture graduate students Jennifer and Jessica Boldt have found a way to combine the two at the University of Florida.

As coordinator of the experimental trial gardens, Jennifer is responsible for testing different breeds of seeds from plant suppliers across the country and publishing the findings online. And while Jessica also tests plants for private trials, she helps her sister with the daily responsibilities of maintaining the 18,000 square feet of experimental garden beds behind Fifield Hall.

"We tried to do separate things, but that didn't really work out. It's our passion," explained Jessica, who grew up working with her sister in their family-owned nursery in Brevard County.

The experimental gardens originally began with the purpose of planting a vari-

ety of vegetable crops to determine which would perform well in Florida. Over the years, the trials have grown to accommodate both seed and vegetable entries and are prepared for both cool- and warm-season trials each year.

The December to May winter trial is used for testing plant resistance to lower temperatures and how well they flower with less daylight. The warm-season trial runs from April to August and is used for evaluating plants for garden performance during the cooler spring months, as well as heat and humidity tolerance during the warmer summer months.

The spring trials are especially helpful to agricultural companies that want to figure out how well a certain plant will perform during summer seasons in various areas of the country. Everyone from home gardeners to professional landscapers can benefit from the published results at <http://trialgarden.ifas.ufl.edu>.

trialgarden.ifas.ufl.edu.

"You can have success in Florida. You just have to find the plant, the right season, and put it in the right place," Jennifer said.

This spring, the UF spring trial garden tested more than 650 plants, including 234 new



File Photo  
The gardens, shown here in May, help predict performance.

introductions for 2008.

"We help companies determine the strengths and weaknesses of their variety in this climate," Jessica said. "

Undergraduate students help with tasks like weeding and labeling where seeds are planted, while Jennifer carefully records information every two weeks to rate the plants at the end of the trials. Foliage color, plant growth, number of flowers, and the presence or absence of insects or diseases help the researchers determine how well a breed performs.

The UF experimental gardens test more than 700 different entries, while retail spaces like the Home Depot may only have 30 available for purchase, she said.

"A fair amount of gardeners are looking at the Web site," Jessica said. "There's new stuff you can use, but people are afraid to try it. The gardens expose them to what's out there."

By Panagiota Papakos

**"You can have success in Florida. You just have to find the plant, the right season, and put it in the right place."**

— Jennifer Boldt



Twin sisters Jessica (left) and Jennifer Boldt

Ray Carson

## 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, visit <http://calendar.ufl.edu/submit/>.

**Nov. 20**  
Center for Children's Literature and Culture presents "Droidmaker: George Lucas, Pixar and the Digital Revolution," Ustler Hall Auditorium, 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Tango Buenos Aires**, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$15-\$30.

**Nov. 21**  
Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$20-\$30.

**Nov. 22-23**  
Thanksgiving holiday. No classes.

**Nov. 23**  
Salzburg Marionettes Hansel and Gretel, Phillips Center, 2 p.m. Reserved seating \$20-\$30.

**Nov. 25**  
Stop! Children's Cancer presents Holiday Traditions, Phillips Center, 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.



**Nov. 27**  
Sister Hazel, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$15-\$35.

**Nov. 29**  
"The Art of Poetry," Harn Museum of Art, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Science Movie Night:** "An Inconvenient Truth," Florida Museum of Natural History, 5-9 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Nov. 30**  
Agbedidi, dancing spanning regions from Africa to the U.S., Constans Theatre, 7:30 p.m.



Catherine Emihovich

### Dean appointed as board of directors chair

Catherine Emihovich, dean of UF's College of Education, has been reappointed as chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. Also known as FFMT, the Fund was created by the Legislature in 1999

## Seen & Heard

### Gift of \$1 million to advance pharmacy

Florida pharmacist Lawrence J. DuBow and his wife Linda of Jacksonville, Fla., have donated \$1 million to create the DuBow Family Graduate Student Education Fund at the College of Pharmacy. The gift will support graduate research in the department of Pharmacy Health Care Administration. In 1991, the DeBows donated \$1 million to the DuBow Family Research Center in Pharmaceutical Care.

to attract minority students to teacher-education programs at universities within the state, and to award scholarships to qualified students. FFMT is headquartered at the college's Office of Recruitment, Retention and Minority Affairs.

### IFAS professor named AAAS Fellow

Animal sciences professor Peter Hansen has been named a 2007 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The award honors efforts to advance scientific applications deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

Hansen was selected for his contributions to the field of reproductive biology.

### Dean earns national award

Christopher Silver, dean of the College of Design, Construction and Planning, was recently awarded the Laurence C. Gerckens Prize at the biennial Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference in Portland, Maine. The prize is awarded once every two years to a scholar-teacher who has demonstrated sustained excellence in the teaching of planning history.

**"The House of Yes,"** Black Box Theatre, 8 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Dec. 1**  
Craft Festival 2007, O'Connell Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, free for children under 12.

**Floridance**, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Dec. 3**  
"A Natural Perspective," Florida Museum of Natural History, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

### Gift of \$2 million inspires bright smiles

Grateful patient and entrepreneur Edward T. Quinn has made a \$2 million gift to the University of Florida College of Dentistry in honor of M. Franklin Dolwick, a UF professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. The gift will create the M. Franklin Dolwick University Chair and is eligible to receive dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the state of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts.



Sarah Kiewel  
M. Franklin Dolwick (left) and Edward T. Quinn

**The King's Singers perform holiday songs**, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m.



### Library West to have extended hours

Library West will maintain extended hours during finals to assist students with their studies. The library will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 a.m. from Dec. 1 through Dec. 13. The Library West Starbucks location will remain open during these extended hours as well.

### Study offers help for stressed employees

If you are a full-time UF or Shands employee and are feeling stressed at work, a new research study may be able to help. A workplace stress management program will be offered free of charge as part of the study. Participants may reduce their symptoms of stress, such as frustration, anxiety, depression or physical symptoms, and may gain increased control over their stressors. The study is expected to begin in January. For more information, contact Barbara Herrmann at [bherrmann@php.ufl.edu](mailto:bherrmann@php.ufl.edu).

### Nominations sought for Jefferson Science Fellow Program

UF will nominate two faculty members for consideration in the U.S. State Department's Jefferson Science Fellow Program this year. The two fellows selected from the nationwide pool of nominees will work for one year in Washington, D.C., and may also spend time at U.S. embassies abroad.

Applicants should submit their applications to Dean Dennis Jett at the International Center, located at the Hub. For more information and application information, visit <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/jefferson/> or email Dean Jett at [djett@ufl.edu](mailto:djett@ufl.edu). Applications must be received at the International Center by Jan. 7.

### Bookstore discount offered to faculty and staff

The Annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Days at the University of Florida Bookstores will be held Nov. 29-30. Faculty and staff will receive special discounts on many items with a valid Gator ID.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 29 at the main store, Norm Carlson will conduct a book signing for his new book, "University of Florida Football Vault."