

UF is home to new pancreas research depository

Type 1 diabetes is a disease which affects at least 1 million Americans. One of the newest additions to the University of Florida's College of Medicine is working to help them.

The Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors, or nPOD, is the College of Medicine's new center for international study of the human pancreas and its relation to diabetes, said Mark Atkinson, director of nPOD.

"The pancreas plays a central role in diabetes, as it acts like a brain telling the rest of the body how to react to food," Atkinson said. "It produces insulin, but in people with type 1 diabetes the body's own immune system attacks the insulin-producing cells, so your body can't produce enough insulin."

The UF center acts as a clearinghouse for pancreas study, as organs are received and studied, and tissues are sent out to other facilities.

"Gainesville is like a FedEx hub for

pancreas research," Atkinson said. "Pancreases will come here from across the country. We take in and process them, and then send some of the tissues onward for further study."

This system works thanks to a collaboration between the UF researchers,



Mark Atkinson

Dave Scavone

scientists at other universities and organ donations to the United Network for Organ Sharing. When the United Network for Organ Sharing receives a pancreas from a donor who was positive for type 1 diabetes, they send the organ to nPOD. UF's nPOD hopes to soon include organs from donors who showed signs they were in the developmental stages of the disease.

"If we get organs from people who were in the process of development of the disease, it gives us the opportunity to see how the disease develops," Atkinson said.

This is also a great opportunity to see how correct the conventional wisdom surrounding the disease is, said Atkinson. Most current knowledge of diabetes is based on autopsies from the 1960s.

"We have newer tools now than we did in the 1960s, and we want to use these tools to see if the dogmas about type 1 diabetes we set into place 30, 40 or 50 years ago still apply," Atkinson said.

By Alex Stern

UF Voices

Budget recommendations now available

The Cost Reduction and Efficiency Task Force has completed the first phase of its work and has developed a series of recommendations that should contribute in getting the University of Florida through some uncertain economic times ahead.

State revenue shortfalls forced UF to cut \$22.1 million from this year's budget, and a sluggish economy appears to indicate that future cuts are a high probability.

The recommendations include strategies that possibly may bring \$3 million more a year and cost-cutting suggestions to potentially save about \$1.8 million annually. The group also has identified some potential one-time savings of about \$3 million.

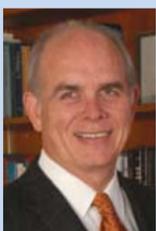
The Task Force, composed of faculty, staff and students, worked with the Huron Consulting Group, which interviewed dozens of people from across campus. It also compared practices here at the University of Florida with many of our peer universities and developed business cases around each recommendation.

- Some of these recommendations will have minimal effect on the day-to-day operations of this university. Others, however, will require everyone to adapt to a new way of doing things. They are:
- Initiate a charge for transcripts of as much as \$10
 - Require non-resident graduate students to become residents
 - Eliminate paper payroll checks; implement payroll debit cards
 - Sell under-utilized vehicles and create a centralized motor pool
 - Centralize vehicle maintenance
 - Convert about half of print publications to electronic
 - Consolidate print vendors

Implementation plans for these changes are expected to roll out in the coming months and additional information will be available as that occurs.

In the meantime, the Task Force is working on a second group of recommendations. Among the issues under consideration are to further automate employees' time and attendance reporting systems, to implement a new electronic procurement system and to potentially downsize our broadcast offerings. The work of the Task Force should be completed in January.

J. Bernard Machen



J. Bernard Machen

Top Stories

Sustainability includes holiday cards and football

This holiday season, University of Florida faculty, staff and students can help the environment and spread holiday cheer.

As part of UF's ongoing commitment to sustainability, a selection of UF-themed holiday cards is available on the Web (www.identity.ufl.edu/gatorNation/cards.html), said Dan Williams, director of marketing. Sending e-cards is both economically and environmentally positive.

"The essence is saving the paper and postage associated with sending traditional holiday cards," said Williams. "The whole idea was to advocate our commitment to campus sustainability – in real ways."

Each holiday, 2.65 billion paper cards are sold in this country. By sending e-cards, we can greatly reduce that impact on the environment while saving money, Williams said.

"Enough holiday cards are printed in one holiday season to fill Ben Hill Griffin Stadium to the top," Williams said.

UF President Bernie Machen and First Lady Chris Machen are also concerned about the impact that holiday cards can have on the environment, and on people's budgets.

"The price of stamps and the immense use of paper really made us stop and think," said Chris Machen. "So many cards are opened and then thrown in the trash. We just tried to think of a better way."

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the U.S. Postal Service expects to deliver approximately 20 billion pieces of mail, according to a Postal Service report. This immense volume of cards and packages results in great amounts of paper waste, which can be reduced with e-cards.

Due to state funding cuts, available university monies sometimes need to be directed to expenses more vital than postage.

"Since we see and speak to so many of our Florida friends and family, we felt that an e-card would be an environmentally and

economically responsible way to share our holiday greetings," Chris Machen said.

For more information or to send a holiday card, visit www.identity.ufl.edu.

Orange, blue - and green

The holidays are not all that UF has been working to make sustainable. At the recent football game against Florida State University, UF showed another side of its sustainability efforts.

Each game generates a huge carbon footprint, and UF became the first university in the nation to attempt to counteract the carbon footprint created by one football game.

By working with the International Carbon Bank and Exchange, the UF Office of Sustainability was able to calculate that the game generated about 1,750 metric tons of carbon dioxide, which equals approximately 3.8 million pounds. The majority of this carbon, about 63 percent, was generated by fans traveling to the game in their personal vehicles.

To offset carbon emissions of the game, UF partnered with the Florida Forestry Association and Environmental Defense, an environmental advocacy organization, to arrange for 18 acres of land to be set aside as a pine forest for 10 years. The team calculated that this would be enough land and time to absorb the game-related carbon emissions.

UF supporters Jim and Winston Bailey are responsible for the land, part of a 100-acre tract, the remainder of which may be used for future carbon-emission related projects. As compensation, Environmental Defense will pay the Baileys to manage the forest for 10 years.

For more information on offsetting the carbon footprint generated by the game, visit www.sustainable.ufl.edu.

By Alex Stern



Two of the 13 designs are shown above. Some are available as blank cards to write your own message.

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

Dec. 5
Fall Classes End

Dec. 8
Danscompany presents *Cinderella*, Phillips Center, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. General admission \$10.

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

Dec. 9
Gainesville Community Band presents *Bright Christmas*, Phillips Center, 2 p.m. Free tickets distributed, beginning one hour before performance.

Dec. 14
Fall Graduate Degrees Commencement Ceremony, O'Connell Center, 4 p.m. Advanced degrees, all colleges.

Dec. 15
Undergraduate Degrees Fall Commencement Ceremonies, O'Connell Center, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information on which ceremony to attend, visit <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/commencement/>.

Dance Alive! presents *"The Nutcracker,"* Phillips Center, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Seen & Heard

Cade and Gatorade remembered

On Nov. 16, Gatorade inventor Dr. Robert Cade attended a ceremony at the University of Florida for the dedication of a historic marker recognizing the birthplace of Gatorade. The marker is located near the O'Connell Center. Cade invented the world's best-selling sports drink for the Gator football team in 1965.

Cade passed away at the age of 80 on Nov. 27.

Derrer inducted into Hall of Fame

The M.E. Rinker Sr. School of Building Construction at the University of Florida inducted William R. "Rick" Derrer, president of James A. Cummings, Inc., into the school's Construction Hall of Fame as part of the school's homecoming activities.

Derrer, in the construction industry for 33 years, also serves as a member of the



Robert Cade File Photo

Rinker School's Advisory Council Executive Committee and assists with fundraising and curriculum development.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the accomplishments of builders who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers. Derrer is one of 40 inductees to the Hall of Fame since 1980.

Associate dean wins Presidential Award

The associate dean of student affairs in the University of Florida's College of Engineering is one of fewer than a dozen people nationwide to receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

Jonathan Earle received the award in a White House ceremony in November. He and the other awardees also met with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office.

The award is aimed at recognizing educational leaders or programs that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in mentoring minority, female or disabled students who are traditionally underrepresented in science, mathematics or engineering. The awardees received grants of \$10,000 and a presidential commemorative certificate. The award is administered by the National Science Foundation.

Dec. 18
Babes in Toyland, Phillips Center, 10 a.m. Free and open to the public.

Dec. 19
Gator Men's Basketball vs. Charleston Southern, O'Connell Center, 7 p.m.

Dec. 20
The Ten Tenors perform holiday songs, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$20-\$35.



Dec. 21
Levin College of Law Fall Commencement Ceremony, Phillips Center, 2 p.m.

Dec. 22
Winter Solstice. First day of winter.

Jan. 4
Spring Registration

Butterfly naming wins \$40,800 bid



An online auction for naming rights to a new owl butterfly species discovered by the University of Florida brought a winning bid of \$40,800, with

proceeds benefiting continued research on Mexican butterflies. Florida Museum of Natural History researchers George Austin and Andrew Warren discovered the new butterfly from Mexico's Sonoran Desert earlier this year. The species' new common name is the Minerva owl butterfly, named in honor of a deceased grandmother of five, Margery Minerva Blythe Kitzmiller of Ohio.

RECURRING EVENTS

"The Afterlife of Alice in Wonderland," Smathers Library 1A. Tea party and reception Nov. 7, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Exhibit on display through Dec. 15. Free and open to the public.

"Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived" exhibit at The Florida Museum of Natural History, on display through Jan. 6. Free and open to the public.



Note This

Offices will be closed on Dec. 24

The university will close Monday, Dec. 24. The extra day of closing will allow a significant cost savings by reducing energy consumption over the 11-day holiday closing period.

Teacher/Scholar nominations sought

Nominations for the 2007-2008 Teacher/Scholar of the Year are now being accepted. Each college is invited to nominate one faculty member who excels in both teaching and scholarship. The award offers an honorarium of \$5,000, as well as other appropriate recognition. Nominations are due by Feb. 1. For more information, contact Debra Walker King at 392-6004.

Nominations are also being accepted for this year's Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. The recipients of this honor receive lifetime Academy membership, and serve on an advisory board to the Provost Office for three years. Advisory board members receive a \$5,000 honorarium each year, for a total of \$15,000. Nominations are due by Jan. 15. For more information, contact Candace Buford at cbuford@aa.ufl.edu or 392-6004.

Poinsettia open house offered by IFAS

Plant lovers and holiday shoppers are invited to the 2007 University of Florida/IFAS Poinsettia Open House. The annual event is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the IFAS environmental horticulture department greenhouses, just off Hull Road on the west side of campus. Admission is free.

For the trials each year, UF/IFAS scientists grow and analyze new varieties developed by plant breeders. This year, the open house will feature more than 100 varieties and some of the poinsettias will be available for purchase.

Don't Forget!

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.

The print edition of InsideUF will be on break until the Jan. 15 edition. The online edition is available at insideuf.ufl.edu. Please email submissions for consideration to insideuf@ufl.edu.

InsideUF

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