

Garden springs to life as renewed community sanctuary

Various pieces of literature, art and songs have a "forgotten garden" theme, and there's no need to look far to find the University of Florida's own forgotten garden.

It was a different era when the once-thriving gardens at the corner of Gale Lemerand Drive and Mowry Road were a Gainesville tourist attraction, popular wedding site and home to the largest publicly owned collection of camellias in the country.

Named for the 1940s UF horticulturalist Royal James "Roy" Wilmot, Wilmot Gardens would eventually succumb to weeds, hurricane winds, construction debris and the invasion of pests. UF stopped maintaining the five-acre area in the late 1970s or early 1980s, but a few camellias miraculously survived.

In 2006, Dr. C. Craig Tisher, professor of nephrology and dean of the College of Medicine, envisioned restoring Wilmot Gardens. His plan was to recreate a beautiful, tranquil place for patients and Health Science Center faculty, staff and students.

To help make Tisher's vision a reality, UF employee Linda Luecking and her husband, master gardener Bill Luecking, began working in 2006 – and continue working to this day – to help restore the area to its previous glory. As a cancer survivor, Linda's goal is to help provide a place for Shands patients to meditate and heal.

"This is only a little selfish on my part," she said. "I've been there. I want things to get better for people."

With the help of Tampa-based landscape architect David Conner, there is a plan to transform the gardens into five distinct, complementing areas that will flow together.

The drawings, currently posted on a bulletin board in the garden, show a central community lawn where families and students can spread out blankets and enjoy the calming atmosphere. There also are plans for a waterfall and reflection pond, a camellia and azalea bower, a "secret" wooded sanctuary, and a working garden where Shands patients can plant and tend their own perennial flowers.



Kristen Bartlett Grace

Some camellias thrive after years of neglect. The gardens' flowers will peak in March.

"We want to provide a place where people can go and make those critical decisions about their lives," Luecking said.

By Kimberly Cruts and Susan Stewart

UF Voices

What's Your Focus?

Eye-opening and life-changing are the best words to describe the day I decided to get involved with the climate change initiative. After attending a conference on climate change issues



Shaw

in Florida, my philosophy emerged: Nothing in climate change is possible without collective action. If you follow popular belief, you know that it took collective action on our behalf to trigger the issues surrounding climate change, and therefore, will require collective action to fix them.

However, nothing can happen without first gathering knowledge. People cannot be expected to take action if they don't know on what or how to act. The events of "Focus The Gator Nation," (FGN) being held on Jan. 31, will help to provide students and the community as a whole with the fundamentals of global warming and climate change, so we can take action together.

"Focus The Gator Nation" is part of the national "Focus the Nation" campaign, a united day of educational activities focused on the issues surrounding climate change and the challenges that lie ahead. Local events kick-off with a Climate Change Awareness Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Reitz Student Union North Lawn.

At 3 p.m., in the Utler Hall Women's Studies Atrium, there will be a presentation by UF faculty on the science and economics of climate change. Immediately following the presentation, at 4 p.m., will be a political forum on the Leadership of Climate Change, which will feature Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan and Tallahassee Mayor John Marks. Finally, at 6 p.m., there will be an energy debate where UF faculty and industry experts discuss the pros and cons of the various energy sources available.

Students, please join us on Thursday, and faculty, bring your students or have discussions in your classes. Then, decide for yourself: What's your focus?

For more information visit: <http://focusthenationuf.googlepages.com>

Rainer Shaw
FGN Coordinator, Wildlife
Ecology and Conservation Senior

Top Stories

Air Force ROTC aces over the competition



A few cadets show their pride in being No. 1.

Kristen Bartlett Grace

What do a fraternity president, a varsity pole vaulter, and a Black Student Union president all have in common? They are all proud cadets with the University of Florida's Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), recently named one of the best in the United States.

"In a school of 50,000, we're just a small group, but we have a strong presence on this campus," said Maj. James Bodnar, an assistant professor of aerospace studies for the Air Force ROTC. "Right now, we have the best, most-motivated cadets we've ever had."

And that motivation has certainly paid off. With just 100 cadets, the UF detachment was named No. 1 in 2007, competing with the 52 medium-sized detachments in the nation. The evaluations take place every three years, and only 5 percent of detachments ever receive this distinction.

is the perfect way of entering into the military. The few things that you have to live by are things that you should be living by anyway. It just teaches you to be a better person."

Bowen was attracted to the opportunity to gain real life experience in the military, while at the same time serving her country. Travel is an added perk for her, too. She plans to attend medical school and work as an Air Force physician on base.

"Anything a regular city needs, an Air Force base needs," she explained. "In the civilian world, there is a glass ceiling. But, rank doesn't have gender. It's based on your abilities and what you want to do."

Adam Hausman, a fourth-year engineering student, is another example of the range of career opportunities that

the Air Force ROTC offers. He came to Gainesville wanting to be a pilot, but was soon swayed by aerospace engineering. He also liked the idea that joining the ROTC wouldn't dominate his time as a busy college student.

"A lot of people think it's every day, but it's not," he said, adding that his Air Force commitment includes about one day a week of service. "Every other day you are a normal student."

Hausman said that many jobs that students may not think of as part of the Air Force are now available, including working with satellites, space shuttle launches and global positioning systems (GPS). The Air Force will continue to pay for his education at the University of Florida until he graduates next year.

"Graduation is just a means to commissioning," he said. "This is just the beginning for us."

By Panagiota Papakos

UF's Detachment 150 received outstanding ratings in training, recruiting, personnel actions and education. A rating of excellent was given for financial management and unit support.

"One of the reasons we won the award is because the quality of the students at the University of Florida," Bodnar said. "Our cadets tend to do better academically. They're more mature, more accountable for their actions, and more enthusiastic about learning."

Lori Bowen is a prime example of the type of student who has helped UF's Air Force ROTC become so successful. The 21-year-old exercise physiology junior joined the program as a way to gain leadership experience and help pay her way through medical school. Her father was a military lawyer for 20 years, so she knew the military had a lot to offer college students.

"I'm a regular student athlete," said Bowen, who is on the varsity track team. "This

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/>.

Jan. 29
Harn Museum of Art presents "Tot Time." Harn Museum, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Career Resource Center presents "Career Showcase." (Non-Technical Day) O'Connell Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free and open to UF students only.

Jan. 30
Career Resource Center presents "Career Showcase." (Technical Day) O'Connell Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free and open to UF students only.

Jan. 31
UFPA presents "AEROS." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating: \$25-35.

Feb. 1
Faculty Development presents "I Just Want to be Whelmed: A Conversation About Productivity." Emerson Alumni Hall, 8:30 a.m. Registration required, call 352-392-4835 for more information.

Medieval and Modern Studies, the Center for European Studies, the City of Gainesville, and the Society for Creative Anachronism present "Medieval Masquerade." Thomas Center, 5-7

Seen & Heard

Tom Dana selected new associate dean

The University of Florida College of Education has announced that Tom Dana, director of UF's School of Teaching and Learning, has been selected as the College of Education's next associate dean for Academic Affairs. His appointment becomes effective July 1, with the start of the new academic year.



Dana

Dana will succeed Jeri Benson, who recently announced her retirement after a long and accomplished career in higher education teaching and administration.

Professor named TPUG Distinguished Member

Sanford Berg, distinguished service professor in economics and director of Water Studies for the Public Utility Research Center (PURC), was named the Distinguished Member for 2007 by the Transportation and Public Utilities Group (TPUG).

p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2032 for more information.

Feb. 2
UFPA presents "Ladysmith Black Mambazo." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$20-\$35.

Feb. 3
Harn Museum of Art presents "Exhibition Spotlight Tour: Highlights from the African Collection." Harn Museum, 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Feb. 5
UFPA presents "Pink Floyd Experience." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$25-\$40.

The award recognizes both Berg's research contributions and the international training programs developed under PURC auspices. For 30 years, Berg served as director of PURC, and remains the Florida Public Utilities Professor. He has published more than 100 journal articles and co-authored/edited four books.

Pugh Hall opens in UF historic district

The Jim and Alexis Pugh Hall recently opened and is home to the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures, the Bob Graham Center for Public Service,



and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. The 40,000-square-foot facility has been constructed over the past year in the heart of UF's historic district between Newell and Daurer halls. A

Feb. 6
Harn Museum of Art presents Harn Eminent Scholar Lecture: "Invisible Now: Art After Spectorship." Harn Museum, 6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Feb. 8
UFPA presents "Martha Graham Dance Company." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$25-\$35.

formal dedication ceremony has been set for Feb. 9. Call 352-392-0780 for more information.

Images of Pugh Hall, and time-lapsed construction video, are available at <http://ufl.oxblue.com/grahamcenter/>.

Police Department is nation's first to earn Triple Crown

The University of Florida Police Department (UFPD) recently acquired "Triple Crown" status by receiving accreditation by three distinct entities. The three agencies to award accreditation to UFPD are The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA).

UFPD is the first university law enforcement agency in the country to receive the Triple Crown designation, and was recently recognized by IACLEA for this accomplishment.

Feb. 9
Gator Men's & Women's Swimming and Diving vs. FAU (Senior Day). O'Connell Center, 1 p.m. Call 352-375-4683 for more information.

Feb. 10
UFPA presents "Pacifica Quartet." University Auditorium, 5 p.m. Reserved seating \$15-\$25.

Martha Graham Dance Company

Text messaging a success

The first test of the University of Florida's new text messaging system was an overall success, although officials are working to determine why some students, faculty and staff did not receive the test message.

Statistics provided by Mobile Campus, the vendor that provides UF's text messaging service, show an 86 percent success rate in reaching cell phones in less than 30 minutes.

Slightly more than 4,400 messages did not reach recipients, either because the recipient's mailbox was full, an incorrect phone number was provided or the recipient did not have text service. Another 1,241 messages failed for unknown reasons.

UF administrators are working with Mobile Campus to determine why that happened, as well as to reduce the text message delivery time.

Meanwhile, anyone who did not receive the test message is asked to go to <http://www.it.ufl.edu/sms-test/>.

Symposium to focus on "green" building

Experts from law and related fields will meet Feb. 15 at the University of Florida Hilton Conference Center to discuss "green" building practices. Presented by the UF Levin College of Law and co-sponsored by sections of The Florida Bar, this year's conference is entitled "Green Building: Prospects and Pitfalls for Local Governments."

For more information, visit www.law.ufl.edu/flalawonline.

E-mail scam alert

The University of Florida community should be on alert for a fraudulent e-mail message with the subject, "Verify your UFL email account now," which is currently circulating on the Internet. Do not respond to the message.

Degree applications due

Graduating seniors should be aware that degree applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 1 if they plan to graduate at the end of the spring semester. Students may call 352-392-1374 for more information, or visit <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/adspring0708.html>.