

Italian mosaic brings art to Nanoscale Research Facility

Take a step into the new Nanoscale Technology Research Facility's lobby to enter a world where science and art coalesce. A beautiful mosaic floor is the centerpiece of attention – providing a place where visitors are welcomed, new ideas receive inspiration and research blossoms.

If you had walked into the building this past summer, you would have found artist Robert Stout hard at work. The American-born artist, who now lives in Italy, spent six weeks in July and August piecing together thousands of intricate Italian tiles to create his mosaic masterpiece, "Nanotube Fullerenes."

Wearing ripped, worn jeans and a paint-sprinkled shirt while working on the mosaic that measures 14.5 feet by 15.5 feet, Stout said nanoscientists who saw him installing the art commented that they immediately recognized the science images contained within.

Stout said when he first heard about the new University of Florida public art project, he thought it would be exciting to integrate appropriate science images. He studied nanoscience on the Internet and in books, and then sketched three images to incorporate into the mosaic.

"The science inspired me," he said. "It's

utilitarian – they (the tiles)... create a whole lot of practicality and beauty behind the meaning of the piece."

Stout described the mixture between art and architecture "like jazz." He said there is a structure to the melody, but the artist does not have to follow each note in order to create a masterpiece out of disorder, chance and randomness.

This was Stout's second commissioning at UF. Several years ago, he created mosaics for the terrace between the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Such projects are made possible through Florida State Statue 255.043, also known as the Art in State Buildings Program. More than 100 pieces of art have been created on the University of Florida's campus since the program began in 1979. According to the law, each state-funded building must set aside up to .05 percent of the total cost of



Artist Robert Stout poses with "Nanotube Fullerenes."

Kristen Bartlett Grace

the project – but not exceeding \$100,000 – to create an original piece of art.

Stout wants people to get excited when they look at his artwork. He said that while nanoscientists may recognize specific designs in the installation, no one needs to be a scientist to appreciate the beauty of the mosaic.

By Jackie Horstmann

For more of this story, click on the blue "InsideUF" on the UF homepage (www.ufl.edu).

UF Voices

Welcome!

We begin 2008-2009 with some exciting developments.

With a GPA of 4.18 and SAT of 1293, this year's incoming freshmen are more academically talented than ever.

Workers on campus are making progress on several major new buildings. Our Florida Tomorrow capital campaign has raised more than \$700 million toward its goal of \$1.5 billion.

UF is making progress on other fronts as well. Yet we also face significant challenges.

The state recently announced a higher-than-expected budget shortfall – one that follows a significant shortfall last fiscal year. We already made painful adjustments last year, and the latest news is unwelcome. Although we have protected our core quality and diversity of offerings to date, more cuts would be extremely difficult. I am urging Gov. Charlie Crist to tap the state's rainy day fund to forestall this possibility.

The fact is, UF is a tremendous asset to Florida.

We are a top 20 public research university and Florida's only member of the Association of American Universities. We are one of the five largest public universities in the nation. From the Florida Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Rainforest to the McKnight Brain Institute, we have unique cultural and research facilities.

The state has every reason to seek to protect and nurture this incredible resource. Our challenge now is to make that crystal clear to our lawmakers, Gov. Crist and the public.

Tropical Storm Fay came and went, but the hurricane season is far from over. I was impressed with the campus community's patience and responsiveness during Fay. It gives me confidence that we are prepared to face whatever challenges lie ahead this year.

There is always a sense of excitement on campus at the start of the school year. Very soon, students and faculty will be focused on their academic responsibilities and goals, but now is a time to appreciate the rich academic and extracurricular experience possible at UF. All signs are, this year will be a productive, memorable and satisfying one.

Have a terrific fall, and Go Gators!

Sincerely,

J. Bernard Machen



J. Bernard Machen

Top Stories

Studying abroad provides numerous benefits

In an ever-expanding global world, a study-abroad experience could be the next big ticket to landing a dream job.

Study-abroad experiences combine different studies, professors and personalities to create a "once in a lifetime experience," said graduate student and study-abroad participant Brian Canning.

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications adventure to Greece and Spain this summer was one of those experiences.

Michael Weigold, advertising professor, started the program in 2003. What began as a 13-person trip just five years ago grew to include 85 students and five professors for this year's trip.

"We want students to say, 'Wow, I feel differently about the world' and 'This was the best month of my life,'" Weigold said.

Social networking while traveling is another advantage of studying abroad, Weigold said. "Some of my students from the first trip now work in New York City, and they eat lunch together all the time."

Studying abroad also is a great addition to a resume.



Stacey Davidson, Jackie Horstmann and Maya Thomas tour the Temple of Olympian Zeus (Athens).

Susanne Hill, UF International Center coordinator, said that potential employers will look favorably upon someone with a study-abroad experience listed on their resume.

According to Janis Page, UF public relations and study-abroad professor, studying abroad helps students become well-rounded global citizens.

"You see things differently...It's an exponential investment," she said.

"In general, younger people are more idealistic and tend to be more receptive to other cultures, languages and points of view," said Brad Pick, a Barcelona public relations practitioner for Edelman PR.

"Their eagerness to absorb and apply new experiences makes them better candidates when they enter the labor market – and are just more well-rounded individuals in general.

"Follow your passions, your dreams. If you want to live and work overseas, take action to make sure it happens," Pick said.

By Jackie Horstmann

For a story about a study-abroad program through the Warrington College of Business, click on the blue "Inside UF" on the UF homepage (www.ufl.edu), then click on "Students take studying abroad to the next level in London program."

New Web site provides easy access to college tours

Go no farther than your computer screen for tours of colleges across the United States, thanks to Ron Reis.

When Reis saw that his high-school-aged nephew in New Jersey was interested in applying to the University of Florida but was unable to travel for a school tour, he took the problem into his own hands. Reis co-founded a new company, YOUniversity TV, which uses online technology to create video tours that offer many of the aspects of traditional campus walking tours.

"As they say, necessity is the mother of invention," Reis said.

The company works with college communication offices to create unique videos.

Some 600 tours are expected to be included when the site officially launches on Sept. 25.

Christos Traikos, UF senior, said that an independent company like YOUniversity TV could create an unbiased view of the college's campus. He added that an online tour would have made it easier and more effective for him to choose a college, since he is from Brazil.

And high school counselors are likely to value the Web site's usefulness — "Especially for out-of-state students that may not have an opportunity to visit the far away colleges," said Diane Villars, career specialist at Westfield High School in Virginia.

Reis believes that when the Web site

launches on Sept. 25 at the National Association for College Admission Counseling, it will "take the entire Internet world by storm." He said the self-funded site currently receives one million monthly hits and he expects the number to rise after the official launch.

Future site enhancements are planned. Users will be able to upload their own videos, view scholarship opportunities and network with college students and alumni, Reis said.

To view the Web site, visit www.YOUniversitytv.com. A link also is available on the UF Admissions Web page, www.ufl.edu/admissions/.

By Jackie Horstmann

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/>.

Sept. 9
Bob Graham Center for Public Service presents "A Declaration of Energy Independence." Pugh Hall, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2032 for more information.

Sept. 10
UFPA presents Kronos Quartet "Awakening." Phillips Center, 7:25 p.m. Reserved seating: \$20-35. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.



Sept. 16
UFPA co-commissioner presents Laurie Anderson's "Homeland." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating: \$20-50. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.

Sept. 17
Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program presents "Ponce de Leon and the Discovery of Florida." Ocora at Pugh Hall, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2032 for more information.

Sept. 19
Fall degree applications due. Call 352-392-1374 for more information.

Sept. 19-20
School of Theatre and Dance presents "George Washington's Boy." Constans Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Ticket price for students, faculty and senior citizens is \$11; general public tickets are \$15. Call 352-392-1653 for more information.

Sept. 23
UFPA presents U.S. Tour Premiere Shakespeare & Company in "Hamlet." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating: \$20-35. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.



Sept. 23-24
Career Resource Center presents "Fall Career Showcase." O'Connell Center, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free and closed to the public. Call 352-273-2322 for more information.

RECURRING EVENTS

Florida Museum Exhibit presents "Butterflies and Moths in Contemporary Zuni Art." On display until Dec. 31. Florida Museum of Natural History, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2000 for more information.

Note This

Web site seeks Gator stories

A new UF Web site, InsideTheGatorNation.com, is seeking stories that answer the question, "When did you become a Florida Gator?" According to the site, the stories may be "funny, emotional, poignant or anywhere in between." Written stories and videos alike are encouraged.

A special video booth will appear at future football games and other UF events. The booth will allow participants to record their personal stories for inclusion on the site.

Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 7-13

National Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 7-13, with Sept. 10 designated as Worldwide Suicide Prevention Day. For more information on Prevention Week, visit www.ulifeline.com/main/page/53/SuicidePrevention.

If you or someone you know needs help or information, please call the Counseling Center in Peabody Hall (352-392-1575) or Student Mental Health Services (352-392-1171), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also available are the Alachua County Crisis Center (352-264-6789) and a national hotline, 1-800-273-TALK(8255), which offers assistance 24-hours per day, 7 days a week.

Plan now for One Less Car Day

UF is challenging students, faculty and staff to give up their cars and use alternative transportation on Oct. 17 – with the hope that it becomes a habit.

As part of the One Less Car event, an alternative transportation fair will occur on Oct. 16 and a celebration for participants will be held on Oct. 17. These events will include prize drawings and the annual car versus bicycle race. In addition, a number of organizations that support alternative transportation will offer free information and services.

Registration for the One Less Car Challenge will continue through Sept. 17. For more information, visit www.sustainable.ufl.edu/onellesscar.