

## Blind foreign exchange student rarely slows down

Kristy Hyland is from Melbourne, Australia, but walks around the University of Florida campus at a New York City clip — a surprising pace, considering she is legally blind.

"I like to get where I'm going," she said. Going places seems to be a theme of Hyland's life. Before beginning at UF, she traveled around the United States — New York City, Los Angeles and Miami Beach — with only her dog.

Keegan, a black Labrador, has been her guide dog for two and a half years. He responds to "voice, touch and ESP," according to Hyland.

The public relations major from Melbourne Royal Institute of Technology is one of a handful of international students who have a severe disability. In addition, she is believed to be the first legally blind exchange student at UF.

"In eight years of working with incoming exchange students, I have never had any declared impaired students until this semester with Kristy and another wheelchair-bound student from the Netherlands," said Lyn Straka, exchange program adviser

at the UF International Center. "Kristy is unique in many ways and an inspiration to all of us."

Hyland is one of two legally blind students currently enrolled in "Leisure Services for People with Disabilities" in the College of Health and Human Performance. The class prepares students to work with the disabled through a curriculum that includes topics that range from nutrition to humor therapy, said Robert Beland, associate professor.

"We want all students to have an understanding of working with people with disabilities," Beland said. "Not because they are going to have jobs in this field specifically, but because people with disabilities are part of the fabric of our everyday lives."

On one particular day in the "Leisure Services for People with Disabilities" class, Keegan seemed to focus on the "leisure" aspect, choosing to nap on the carpeted floor. Hyland, however, rarely slows down. During the last several minutes of class, Professor Beland asked students to write down their favorite leisure activities.

The moment he gave the instruction,



Kristy Hyland and guide dog Keegan walk briskly to class.

Hyland's fingers began flicking over the keys of her laptop to write down No. 1: Walking with the dog.

By John Noonan

## Seen & Heard

### Harvey named executive associate dean

John Harvey has been named executive associate dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Harvey was a founding member of the UF veterinary college's faculty in 1974 and has served as chairman of the college's department of physiological sciences since 1995.

Harvey replaces James Thompson, who held the post of executive associate dean since 2006.



John Harvey

### Architecture students win international competition

UF architecture graduate students Cristina Villanueva-Meyer and Javier Fornaris recently won first-place awards in the international design competition during the 25th annual Encounter of Latin American Students of Architecture (ELEA) in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Villanueva-Meyer

and Fornaris presented design projects completed this summer in the UF School of Architecture's Studio Mexico Program. The projects emphasized sustainable design strategies for historic communities in rural Mexico.

### Bergstrom Center appoints new director

The Bergstrom Center for Real Estate Studies has appointed Tim Becker as director. Becker holds a degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Florida and an MBA from Florida Gulf Coast University, where he served as an adjunct professor in real estate. His experience also includes working as director of commercial development for the Bonita Bay Group. Becker has attained the designation of Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) and he is a past-president of the Southwest Florida chapter of the CCIM Institute.

### Coach of the Year named

University of Florida head soccer coach Becky Burleigh recently was named the Southeastern Conference Coach of the

Dec. 13, 15-19  
Fall Finals.

Dec. 14  
AEG Live presents Carrie Underwood. O'Connell Center, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$55 for the floor and level 1, \$45 for level 2 and \$35 for level 3. All tickets are subject to an additional service charge. Admission fee and open to the public. Call 352-392-5500 for more information.

Dec. 18  
UF Human Resource Services presents "Council on Diversity." HRS Building, 903 W. University Ave., 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-273-1759 for more information.

Dec. 19  
Fall Commencement.

Dec. 21  
Gator Women's Basketball vs. Pittsburgh. O'Connell Center. Time TBA. Call 352-375-4683 for more information.



## MLK events to be held

A week of Martin Luther King Jr. events, sponsored by the Black Graduate Student Organization, are scheduled for Jan. 14 to 20. Events will include a special speaker, campus-wide town-hall forum, candlelight celebration, Gatorship leadership/diversity retreat, alternative break weekend trips focused on low-income housing and environmental preservation, and a panel, "How the election of Barack Obama will impact the fight for civil rights and social justice."

ACCENT and the New Student Programs in the Dean of Students Office are co-sponsors of the events.

For more information on the week of events, visit [www.dso.ufl.edu/mlk](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/mlk).

## Creating a safe workplace

Given the growing concern about personal safety in the workplace and the community, the Office of Human Resource Services, working in concert with the University Police Department and the University of Florida Counseling Center, will hold a workshop titled "Safe Campus, Safe Community: Creating a Violence-Free Workplace" on Dec. 4. The session will be held at 8:30 to 11 a.m., Reitz Student Union Grand Ballroom.

The workshop is designed for UF administrators, and will discuss proactive measures and appropriate responses in the event of a disruptive or violent situation.

To register, go to the myUFL system, My Self Service, Training and Development, Request Training Enrollment (GET030, Safe Campus/Safe Community Cnf), or e-mail [training@ufl.edu](mailto:training@ufl.edu) for assistance.

## Awards program deadline extended

The entry deadline for the university-wide Golden Gator communication awards program has been extended from Dec. 1 to Dec. 8. For more program details, visit <http://ufcn.ufl.edu/goldengators/index.shtml>.

## Winter break extended

This year, the University of Florida will include Jan. 2, 2009 as part of the regular December and New Year holidays. This addition will allow reduced energy consumption for a total of 11 days, resulting in significant cost savings for the university.

Some "essential personnel" will be required to work during the holiday period. Questions should be directed to an employee's supervisor or Leave Administration at 352-392-5732, [central-leave@ufl.edu](mailto:central-leave@ufl.edu).

## UF Voices

### CLAS defines global mission

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) seeks not only to be nationally competitive, but to be a global leader in teaching, research, and service, as a few examples below illustrate.



Paul D'Anieri

- Area Studies** - CLAS is home to area studies programs focused on Europe Africa Studies, Asia Studies, and is a major contributor to UF's Center for Latin American Studies. We are working to develop a program in Global Islamic Studies as well.

- Innovation in teaching** - Faculty in language departments, the Linguistics Program, and the English Language Institute are developing new techniques for teaching languages. For example, Franz Futterknecht leads an innovative program, with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, to improve language teaching and cultural awareness using the virtual reality site Second Life.
- Global service** - UF faculty are making a difference around the world, while connecting Florida to it. The Center for African Studies recently held a conference for the business community in Tampa entitled "Doing Business with Africa: Practice, Issues and Potential."

- International collaborative research** - Faculty and students in virtually every CLAS department and program are engaged in international research collaboration. For example, Physics has a large group of faculty and students at the new Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, and designed one of the key particle detectors.

- Undergraduate research** - Through Research Experience for Undergraduates grants, CLAS students conduct research with faculty on a wide range of global topics, and travel the world doing so.

In a globalizing world, this increased international emphasis will enhance our ability to meet our local, state and national missions more successfully.

Paul D'Anieri  
CLAS Dean

## Top Stories

### UF-themed cards make season greetings green

A flurry of snowflakes canvasses the sky around Century Tower and University Auditorium while white Christmas lights illuminate each building's outline.

This magical winter-wonderland scene may be viewed on University of Florida-themed holiday e-cards.

For the second year in a row, Gators may spread holiday cheer with e-cards that are available online at [www.identity.ufl.edu/gatorNation/cards.html](http://www.identity.ufl.edu/gatorNation/cards.html).

This year's cards feature Century Tower, University Auditorium and a variety of Gator graphics fashioned for the holiday season.

An e-card with animation also has been added to this year's selection. However, the recipient's computer must have flash capability in order to view the animation.

"By providing a selection of electronic cards, we are offering a lot of options to the campus community. The cards are designed so people can customize them for their college, office or business unit," said Joe Hice, associate vice president of marketing and public relations for UF.

The versatility of e-cards has recently made them popular. According to the Greeting Card Association, approximately 500 million electronic cards were sent last year.

The UF e-cards are more than just an easy way to spread personalized holiday cheer; they help make the world a greener place.

"Every holiday season, companies send enough greeting cards to fill Ben Hill Griffin Stadium," Hice said. "That means we create mountains of waste and kill millions of trees in doing so."

Sending an e-card in place of a traditional paper card can reduce an individual's carbon footprint along with the university's.

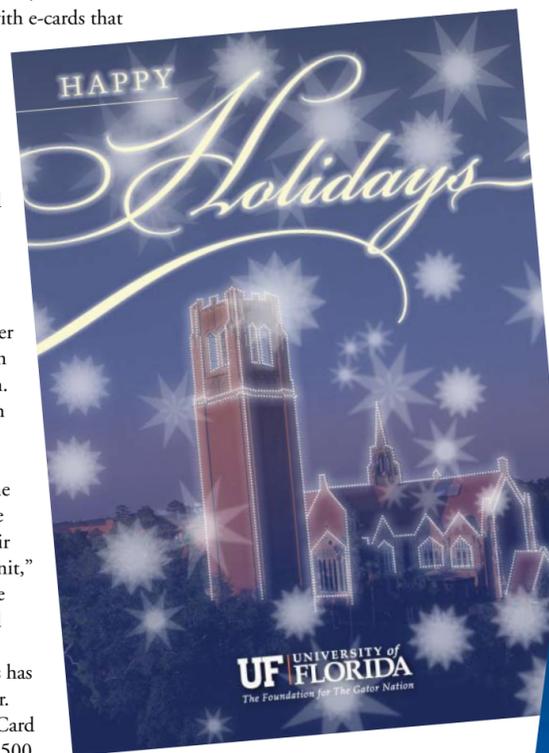
UF's carbon footprint recently was reduced on Nov. 15. Two hundred trees were planted near the Everglades in an effort to offset the carbon emissions from the University of South Carolina football game.

This project was part of the Neutral Gator Initiative, a program co-sponsored by UF's Office of Sustainability, which aims to counteract emissions from UF's 2008 home football season.

The 30 volunteers for the project helped reduce a portion of UF's environmental footprint. Now individuals may do their part by sending a UF-themed holiday e-card instead of a paper card.

"It's not that printed greeting cards are bad; they aren't. It's just that the Internet can deliver that same message of hope and good cheer electronically — no trees or trash involved," Hice said.

By Claibourne Smith



"Every holiday season, companies send enough greeting cards to fill Ben Hill Griffin Stadium."

— Joe Hice

## 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/>.

Dec. 5  
School of Theatre and Dance presents "Agbedidi Dance and Drum." Constans Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Admission fee and open to the public. Call 352-392-1653 for more information.

Dec. 7  
UFPA presents Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band — Hometown Christmas. Phillips Center, 2 p.m. Ticket prices: \$15 - 30. Open to the public. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for ticket information.

Florida Museum presents "Fight and Flight." Florida Museum of Natural History, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2000 for more information.

Dec. 10  
Fall classes end.

Dec. 12  
History of Science Society presents "The Life of Things: A History of Industrial Technology." 210 Pugh Hall, 3 - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-846-2032 for more information.