

UF Voices

Celebrating the Firsts

The year 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of integration at the University of Florida, and the culminating gala event is Feb. 7 at Emerson Alumni Hall.



Florida Bridgewater-Alford

"Commemorating 50 years of Integration: Celebrating the Firsts," began last February. As part of the recognition, the history of UF integration has been examined while also focusing on the future of UF's commitment to diversity. A keystone gala and performance, scheduled for Feb. 7 at Emerson Alumni Hall, will be the event culmination.

The "Celebrating the Firsts" gala honors the first African-American graduates from each college at UF who broke through racial barriers to make the university a more humane institution. Fifteen honorees will be recognized. UF Board of Trustee Courtney Cunningham will serve as host and emcee.

The weekend features Denyce Graves on Feb. 6 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. On Feb. 7, UF's Elizabeth Graham will be accompanied by Kevin Sharpe and Antonio Canty, and on Feb. 8, the African Children's Choir will perform at the Phillips Center.

Reservations for the gala will be accepted through today at <http://www.urel.ufl.edu/50/> or by contacting Tamara Johnson, UF Conference Office, at 392-1701 ext. 239.

For additional information, contact me at 352-392-4567 or bridgefl@ufl.edu.

Florida Bridgewater-Alford
Director of Community Relations



Top Stories

The Gator Nation mobile studio makes friends in Miami

The Gator Nation is everywhere — and it seems the mobile studio that films Gator stories is everywhere, too.

The mobile billboard vehicle, which also serves as a video recording studio, racked up more than 600 miles driving to, from and around Miami during the week of the recent BCS National Championship Game. The truck was very visible in the areas of the Fan Fest celebration, the stadium and other populated areas.

"When did you become a Gator?" is part of the current university branding campaign.

In addition to driving around town, the truck was an integral part of promoting University of Florida academic and research excellence during events surrounding the game. Although the mobile studio is a new addition this year, University Relations has journeyed to the bowl games for the past three years to promote academics and research.

In partnership with the UF Athletic Association (UAA), Gator Club of Miami and Florida Hispanic Alumni Association (FHAA), this year's venues included "A Night With The Caimanes" alumni party in Little Havana, a five-hour pep rally event at Jungle Island in the downtown Miami area and a game-watching party at Shula's Steak House in Miami Lakes.

A visual display highlighted various UF inventions and academic excellence. The display was accompanied by the mobile studio, as well as UF-invented air-cooled shoulder pads, Gatorade, the College of Engineering's unmanned robotic submersible, SubjuGator, and autonomous vehicle, NaviGator.

The NaviGator was developed by UF engineers including Carl Crane and David Armstrong. The vehicle was featured during events of the 2006 BSC National Championship Game and last year's Capital One Bowl prior to this year's appearance.

"We want to show the public the



NaviGator and the UF research display accompanied the mobile studio (right) at Miami's Jungle Island the day before the BCS National Championship Game.

impact UF research has on the state and on the country," Crane said.

Crane said he enjoyed talking with UF fans, alumni and the media.

Miami news media attended all of the venues this year and were interested in learning about UF research.

"We're here to tell the media and fans alike that UF excels in academics and research, as well as athletics. It's great when even the Sooners fans want a picture of themselves wearing the UF-invented air-cooled shoulder pads," said Susan Stewart, associate director of public relations.

At all of the events, UF fans were encouraged to share their personal Gator stories.

Stories included those from UF cheerleaders, Albert and Alberta and several UF marching band members. When Alberta was asked about the moment she became a

Gator, she wrote on a poster that it was the moment she met Albert.

The mobile studio recorded more than 60 stories during the Miami events, and it's not finished collecting stories. Gators back home in Gainesville continue to have numerous opportunities to share their stories.

Alpha PRoductions, a student-run public relations firm, has teamed up with The Gator Nation Campaign to record Gator stories at UF events. Upcoming filming events include prior to the women's basketball game on Feb. 8, prior to the gymnastics meet on Feb. 20 and prior to the baseball game on Feb. 27.

Currently, more than 400 video stories and 200 written stories have been collected. To view or upload videos and stories, visit <http://insidethegatornation.com>.

By Bridget Brennan

In Focus

The Division of Continuing Education reaches around the globe

The University of Florida may be in Gainesville, but the Division of Continuing Education (DCE) touches the world every day — both online and in person.

From on-campus programs to conferences held in Japan, the division's reach is infinite both geographically and academically.

"The Division of Continuing Education is the University of Florida's best-kept secret," said Eileen Oliver, interim dean of DCE.

DCE caters to the interests of certificate-seeking professionals, college students, faculty and researchers from all over the globe.

"Our mission is to provide access to quality education for traditional and non-traditional students," said Oliver.

The division's 31 online Flexible Learning courses are taught by UF faculty.

"Our new online courses mirror the quality of those taught on campus," said Oliver. "We are very proud of them."

This year 38,500 students from around the world are enrolled in DCE programs, including 3,500 students in Flexible Learning courses.

Students work independently and may complete courses in 32 weeks, or as few as eight weeks with instructor permission.

Several departments, including Continuing Medical Education, Allied Health, Conferences, Leadership Development Institute (LDI), Training, and various affiliates make up the division.

"We have everything from brain surgery



This Clearwater Beach conference last fall is one of the many meetings arranged by DCE.

to waste water," said Oliver.

The department is involved with all UF colleges and hundreds of universities around the world. In April the department will partner with the American Nuclear Society for a conference featuring international nuclear industry leaders.

Rebecca Johnson, Conferences director, said she enjoys bringing researchers from all over the world to Gainesville because "you can come and hear some of the world's

experts on leading-edge topics."

Assistance is available to faculty applying for VisitGainesville's 2009 Spring Conference Grant Program. The program will award \$75,000 to meeting planners who help generate lodging revenue. Visit <http://visitgainesville.com/grants> for more details.

For more information on DCE courses and conferences, visit <http://dce.ufl.edu>.

By Bridget Brennan

Seen & Heard

Technology provides unique music lesson

Jinghua Pu, graduate student of the School of Music, recently had the opportunity to participate in an unusual performance and master class that used high-speed Internet technology to bridge the gap of some 1,000 miles. Real-time transmission of audio and video allowed Pu's live piano performance to be streamed to master teacher, concert pianist Stewart Goodyear. Pu and Goodyear were able to converse and interact freely. The master

class event was conducted by the Philadelphia Orchestra. Digital Worlds Institute, UF Performing Arts and the UF School of Music collaborated on the project.

Osfield completes new book

Kenneth J. Osfield, University of Florida ADA coordinator and a 19-year UF employee, recently completed a book titled "Internationalization of Student Affairs and Services: An Emerging Global Perspective," which is being published by Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA). For more information about the

book, visit <http://bookstore.naspa.org/internationalizationofstudentaffairsandservices.aspx>

International Educators announced

The College of Fine Arts recently announced its 2008-'09 International Educators of the Year. This year's awards went to Associate Professor Paul Richards, School of Music, in the senior category and Assistant Professor Lauren Garber Lake, School of Art and Art History, for the junior category. The award was created by the UF International Center in 2004 to recognize outstanding international endeavors by UF faculty members.



Paul Richards



Lauren Garber Lake

Note This

Web page provides budget information

A new presidential Web page has been created to provide budget-related university information. The address is <http://budget.president.ufl.edu/>. There is a direct link to the site from the UF homepage, www.ufl.edu.

Gator stories abound on Insidethegatornation.com

The following excerpt is one sample of the hundreds of stories on <http://insidethegatornation.com/>.

"I recently celebrated two very important anniversaries: being cancer-free for 11 years and working as a television news reporter in Miami for 30 years. The University of Florida helped me reach both of those milestones.

I graduated from UF in December 1978, with a job in hand. My classes and work experience at WUFT and WRUF in Gainesville prepared me well. I wasn't prepared to learn I had cancer 20 years later...my doctor here recommended I see a specialist at the University of Florida. I moved back to Gainesville for six weeks while undergoing radiation treatment and surgery at Shands...It felt like I was home again. Now I return once a year for a check-up. During my annual trip in November, I was given a tour of Shands Cancer Hospital...and I spoke to students in two TV news reporting classes...Then we took a tour of the WUFT newsroom and studios. It felt like I was home again. So this week (BCS National Championship), my daughters and I will be cheering for my Florida Gators, our orange and blue hearts bursting with pride and gratitude."

Tell your Gator story

Visit <http://insidethegatornation.com/> to browse hundreds of video and written stories — or to upload your own video or written story. The site also contains university news, campus photos and more.

Upcoming opportunities to tell your Gator story at the mobile recording studio include the following:

- Feb. 8 at the O'Connell Center prior to women's basketball at 2 p.m.
- Feb. 20 at the O'Connell Center prior to the gymnastics meet at 7 p.m.
- Feb. 27 at the McKethan Stadium prior to the baseball game at 6:30 p.m.

Daily news is online

InsideUF news is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, by clicking on the blue "InsideUF" on the UF homepage, www.ufl.edu.



To access the entire daily InsideUF newsletter, click on the blue InsideUF link from the UF homepage, www.ufl.edu.



Feb. 5
UFPA presents "Oliver!" Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices: \$30-50. Open to the public. Call 352-392ARTS (2787) or visit <http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu> for ticket information.

Feb. 8
Gator Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee. O'Connell Center, 2 p.m. Call 352-375-4683 or visit <http://www.gatorzone.com> for more information.

UFPA presents "The African Children's Choir." Phillips Center, 10:30 a.m. Tickets \$20-30. Call 352-392ARTS (2787) or visit <http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu> for more information.

Feb. 10
UF Asian Studies presents "When a Woman Ascends the Stairs." Hippodrome Theater, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-2464 or visit www.clas.ufl.edu/asian for more information.

Feb. 11
North Florida Foundation for Research and Education presents "The Lioness: A Film Screening." University Auditorium, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-376-1611 or visit <http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu> for more information.

Feb. 14
Florida Museum of Natural History presents "Darwin Day." Florida Museum of Natural History, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-273-1820 or visit <http://www.fimnh.ufl.edu> for more information.

Feb. 15
School of Music presents "Carillon Recital." Century Tower, 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-273-3181 or visit <http://arts.ufl.edu/carillon> for more information.



Repeating Events
Florida Museum of Natural History presents "Everglades Double Feature Public Opening" on display through May 31. Florida Museum of Natural History. Free and open to the public. Call 352-273-1820 or visit <http://www.fimnh.ufl.edu> for more information.

University Galleries Exhibit: "Sacred places + skies redux: petit selection" on display through March 27. Grinter Gallery. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-0207 or visit www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries/ for more information.