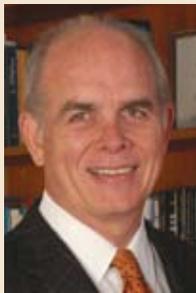


UF Voices

Welcome to the new school year!

We had a busy, productive summer, and all signs point to a fruitful year ahead.

Within the past couple of months we announced a \$26 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and a new \$13 million initiative to open a second biotechnology incubator. We broke ground on a major new office building on our Eastside Campus. And our astronomers helped inaugurate the world's largest telescope, located in the Canary Islands.



J. Bernard Machen

Workers will complete the Biomedical Sciences Building, the Pathogens Research Facility and the Shands Cancer Hospital at UF within the next few months. Our latest incoming class is the most accomplished ever, with students arriving with an average GPA of 4.24 and 29.6 on the ACT. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation not long ago awarded UF nearly \$1 million for a new master's program, one of several recent indicators we remain highly regarded nationally.

There is no denying the difficulties we have faced as a result of three years of budget cuts. But UF scholars, scientists, staff and students have continued to excel, even amid what was probably the university's most difficult era in decades. Some economic indicators suggest the economy is stabilizing. If UF can achieve such notable gains in tough times, we will surely make even longer strides in better ones.

Have a terrific fall, and Go Gators!

J. Bernard Machen, President

Kratzer is 'officer and a gentleman'

Dave Kratzer, associate vice president of Student Affairs and a retired Army Reserve major general, has been appointed as a U.S. Army Reserve ambassador.



Dave Kratzer

Ambassador responsibilities include attending a variety of regional military events and ceremonies, as well as assisting returning soldiers in adjusting to civilian life.

Kratzer's own overseas military experience makes him well-qualified for the ambassador position. After Sept. 11, 2001, he was deployed to Afghanistan for six months, and then later deployed to Iraq and Kuwait for a year.

"The University of Florida has been wonderful in their support of me," Kratzer said. "I left twice and came back, and my job was still here."

Kratzer now helps returning Florida reservists who may face financial troubles, job loss, post-traumatic stress or family issues. At UF, Kratzer works closely with the UF Veteran's Affairs Office and he interacts with more than 440 student veterans through coordination with the Collegiate Veterans Society.

By Sara Gaylord

To read more of this story, visit www.insideuf.ufl.edu



This image by photographer David Taylor shows the scarring caused by a heavy backpack used to cross the desert. Taylor will speak at UF on Sept. 16 about his photo/video project.

Book, photography capture 'border' reality

"Five men stumbled out of the mountain pass so sunstruck they didn't know their own names... They were drunk from having their brains baked in the pan, they were seeing God and devils, and they were dizzy from drinking their own urine, the poisons clogging their systems."

These are the words of author Luis Alberto Urrea in "The Devil's Highway."

The book is based on the true story of 26 men who attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border into Arizona through the dangerous desert region known as the Devil's Highway. While a dozen men manage to survive, 14 others pay the ultimate price, succumbing to the unforgiving desert.

"The Devil's Highway" is this year's Common Reading Program selection.

To help kick off the program, Urrea joined President Bernie Machen in addressing the freshman class at the university's first New Student Convocation on Aug. 21 at the O'Connell Center. Small-group discussions, led by faculty, followed the convocation.

Upcoming campus events include a presentation by photographer David Taylor at 7 p.m. on Sept. 16 at the Harn Museum of Art. Taylor's lecture, "Working the Line: Photographs of the U.S.-Mexico Border," will discuss his photographic and video work that takes place on the border.

"The opportunity to share my work with the University of Florida community is very fortuitous as Luis Urrea is writing an essay for a forthcoming book of my photographs," Taylor said.

"As Luis so profoundly illustrates in 'Devil's Highway,' the space that separates our romantic vision of the desert southwest and the experience crossing that same territory as a migrant is complex and fraught," Taylor said.

By Susan Stewart and Sara Gaylord

To read more of this story, visit www.insideuf.ufl.edu

Note This

Student Alumni, Cicerones receive awards

The University of Florida recently received two national awards. The Student Alumni Association (SAA) received "Most Outstanding SAA" by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)/Affiliated Student Advancement Programs (ASAP), and

the Florida Cicerones were awarded "Most Outstanding Internal Program" for their recruitment process. With more than 9,500 members, UF's SAA is the largest student alumni association club in the country.

Did you KNOW?

The fall 2009 incoming freshman class has a 4.2 average GPA, an average SAT score of 1963 and average ACT score of 29.6.

Tobacco-free, inside and out – UF, Shands

Patients, visitors and employees at the University of Florida Health Science Center (HSC) campus and Shands HealthCare facilities throughout North Central Florida are going "Tobacco-Free Together," officials recently announced.

As of Nov. 1, the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products in any of the HSC, Shands or UF Physicians buildings and parking lots, or in vehicles in these areas, will not be permitted.

UF plans to implement the policy on its main campus in July 2010.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

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Produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students
Editor - Susan Stewart
September 1, 2009

UF Calendar

- Sept. 4 Fall fee-payment deadline
- Sept. 7 Labor Day holiday (no classes)
- Sept. 11 Fall S-U grade option deadline

Recurring Events

- Amazing Butterflies**, Florida Museum of Natural History, everyday through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Docent-Led Tours**, Harn Museum of Art, every Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.
- Weekend Tours**, Harn Museum of Art, every Saturday, 11 a.m.

This is a sampling of events from the electronic UF calendar. For more event details, or to submit an event to the calendar, click "UF Calendar" at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.