

UF Voices

The Gator Nation is Everywhere

Becoming a part of The Gator Nation has been a big part of life for my wife and me, since we moved to Gainesville in 2006. Now, as dean of the UF International Center, I am particularly proud of the tag line to the UF slogan, "The Foundation for The Gator Nation."



David Sammons

This tag line states that "The Gator Nation is Everywhere." The UF International Center is charged with ensuring that this remains true. From our significant numbers of international graduates (residents of more than 100 countries) to the large cohort of international students (3,917 with homes in 134 countries, at latest count) to the number of countries (52) where more than 2,000 UF students study abroad annually, we really are everywhere.

Why, you might ask, is The Gator Nation so internationally committed? The simple answer is: Because it's the right thing to do. We live in a world that is so intimately interconnected that a great institution cannot function responsibly without a significant global commitment – and we are a great institution!

David Sammons
Dean, UF International Center

Buildings receive LEED certification

Five University of Florida buildings and additions recently received certification from the United States Green Building council for being environmentally friendly.

The buildings include the Steinbrenner Band Hall, the Graham Center for Public Service at Pugh Hall, the NIMET Nano-scale Research Facility, the UF Dental Clinic in Naples and the IFAS Biological & Agricultural Research Facility in Fort Pierce. The certification is called LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

UF currently has 17 certified buildings, five buildings pending certification and 22 buildings registered to become certified. For more information visit <http://www.facilities.ufl.edu/sustain/>.

Cessation program offered

In anticipation of the University of Florida going "Tobacco-Free Together" on July 1, several programs are being offered to assist employees and their family members in kicking the habit before the policy takes effect.

For more information on the cessation courses, visit <http://shcc.ufl.edu/ocmed/esc.shtml>.



Ray Carson

Dean of Students Jen Day Shaw (left), doesn't stop being productive during her lunch break. She often eats with student groups.

Fact

The Dean of Students Office oversees Preview, Orientation and more.

Running with the Gators

Do you know who the dean of students is? If you're a student living on campus, she could be your neighbor.

Jen Day Shaw, the new University of Florida dean of students, is so dedicated to her job that she rarely leaves work. She exercises, dines and relaxes in an atmosphere surrounded with students.

To get familiar with things fast, she decided to live on campus. According to Shaw, this allows her to participate in more student events.

"It (living on campus) puts you right in the heart of things and makes it so much easier," Shaw said.

Although she has worked as the dean of students at other universities, including University of North Carolina at Greensboro and University of South Florida, this is her first time working with such a large student body, she said.

The convenience and accessibility of living on campus helps when managing a university crisis until 2 a.m., she said. "It's something different every day," she said, which is one of the reasons she enjoys her job.

Even after working into the early-morning hours, she still manages to have energy to run with ROTC students before dawn. Coming from a military family, Shaw has a great respect for the group and uses the morning activity as another opportunity to familiarize herself with students.

Impressed by the high involvement of UF students, Shaw finds attending student-group meetings to be "uplifting," she said.

For this reason, she often eats lunch with students at daily events offering food. But, as if dining, socializing and living in a student atmosphere weren't enough, Shaw also will be teaching two student courses: First-Year Florida and a graduate course.

Shaw loves to teach, but her true calling lies in another aspect of her job.

"It is most fulfilling to help students in distress," she said. "I love that the best."

By Kristie Andres

Did you **KNOW?**
UF will be smoke-free beginning July 1.

UF Calendar

April 7

"The CSI Effect in Jury Trials," speaker Carol Henderson, 7:30 p.m., Ustler Hall Atrium.

April 8

School of Music Organ Studio Recital, 7:30 p.m., University Auditorium.

April 9

Spring drop or withdraw deadline.

April 11

School of Music Carillon Recital, 3 p.m., Century Tower.

April 17-18

UF Department of Environmental Horticulture's 2010 Annual Spring Plant Sale, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., UF Plant Science Facility.

April 18

"Exhibition Spotlight Tour," 2 p.m., Harn Museum of Art.

Recurring Events

Weekend tours, 11 a.m., every Saturday; docent-led tours, 2 p.m., every Saturday, Sunday, Harn Museum of Art.

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.

Note This

Solar home to compete internationally

The University of Florida Solar Decathlon team's student-designed solar home will compete internationally this summer in the Solar Decathlon Europe.

The competition is designed to advance innovation and research in solar, sustainable and industrialized housing.

The UF team of more than 125 students from four colleges and eight disciplines, will compete in Madrid this June in 10 categories that include solar power, innovation, sustainability and communication. The team's entry fuses innovation with the design of the historic Florida Cracker House to further the field of solar energy and inspire solutions for sustainable living.

For updates on the house, visit www.florida.solardecathlon.org.



THE BEST OF UF

Your campus news source

Produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students
Editor - Susan Stewart
April 6, 2010