

UF Voices

Fusing disease research

“So you do research on diseases – when did you become a medical doctor?” is a question I regularly hear. I’m actually a geographer. In the past, medical doctors were nearly the only ones doing disease research, but recently things have been changing. Today, disease-related research projects need skills that are found across campus.



Andrew Tatem

This was illustrated by a recent project exploring malaria elimination on Zanzibar. We needed medical doctors and biologists to obtain malaria and mosquito data, geographers and statisticians to map disease risk, climatologists to address seasonal risk, sociologists to help quantify human travel, mathematicians and computer scientists to model malaria transmission, economists to estimate the costs of eliminating malaria, and lawyers to explore plan implementation.

Just a snapshot of the skills needed, this shows why UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute (www.epi.ufl.edu) has been established. By fusing disciplines, EPI will develop outreach, education and research capabilities designed to preserve Florida’s health and economy, and to prevent or contain new and re-emerging diseases.

*Andrew Tatem
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myUFL gets upgrade

Work has begun to upgrade the myUFL financial systems. The project is scheduled for completion in March 2011.

The myUFL system provides faculty, staff and students with around-the-clock access to online business applications, and has an average of 14,000 daily visits.

UF to be tobacco-free

To promote the health and well-being of faculty, staff, and students, the University of Florida will be going tobacco-free effective July 1. The use of cigarettes or other tobacco products in UF buildings, parking lots, or in vehicles in these areas, will be prohibited.

A number of programs have been offered to assist employees, students and their families in kicking the habit prior to July 1. For more information, call 352-392-5787.

Final spring edition today

This is InsideUF’s final print edition of the semester. The biweekly publication will resume during fall semester. Visit www.insideuf.ufl.edu for daily campus news.



Courtney Blethen

The UF RAD course includes opportunities for women to practice resistance moves.

RAD teaches safety strategies

“No, don’t touch me! Get back. Stay away!” one woman loudly screamed. It’s not typical classroom sounds, but this is no ordinary class. Approximately 20 women – University of Florida employees and students – watch as one woman fights her attackers.

Two specially trained male University Police Department officers and a female class leader serve as “attackers” in this Rape Aggression Defense class.

RAD is a national organization that teaches defensive options to women and children. RAD includes a workbook, lecture, discussions and opportunity to practice resistance moves.

“I was surprised at how empowering the class is,” UF employee and class attendee Shannon Cheek said. “Women walk away with a lot of confidence.”

According to Jeff Lamb, UPD officer and coordinator of the UF RAD program, promoting safe thinking and behavior is essential.

“I want women to learn that they do not have to be polite or remain in a situation where they are uncomfortable,” Lamb said.

For several volunteers, the class is a labor of love. Officer Scott Summers regularly puts on a hot, heavy safety suit on days off work from UPD, and encourages women to scream and hit him. Tina Lamb and Joy Noll, certified RAD instructors, use vacation time from their jobs as UF financial aid coordinators to instruct other women.

Tina Lamb assists her husband, Jeff, in the lecture and serves as an “attacker.” Noll wears a whistle and ensures that safety standards are constantly upheld.

UF RAD classes are free for students and employees. Employees may attend during work hours, with supervisor approval. Basic Physical Defense, a prerequisite for advanced courses, will be offered on April 21, 22 and 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. Employees may register at myUFL. For more information on adult classes, visit http://www.police.ufl.edu/pdf_files/RAD%20Brochure%202007.pdf.

For information on RADkids, a personal empowerment safety course, visit www.radkids.org or e-mail Officer James Thomas, thomasjl@ufl.edu.

By Susan Stewart

*Source: <https://www.gainesvillepd.org/index.php/public-information/uniform-crime-reports>

Fact

Annually, there are more than 100 reported rapes in Gainesville.*

Did you KNOW?

Last year 2 million+ reports were generated by myUFL.

UF Calendar

April 21
Spring classes end.

April 22-23
Reading days. No classes.

April 24, 26-30
UF Speech and Hearing Clinic Free Screenings, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 1405 NW 13th St., Suites B and C.

April 29-30, May 1-2
Commencement.

May 6
Summer B advanced registration, continued through June 24.

May 10
Summer A/C classes begin.

June 25
Summer B regular registration begins.

Recurring Events
Weekend tours, 11 a.m., every Saturday, and docent-led tours, 2 p.m., every Saturday and 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

Biomedical Sciences Building to be dedicated

The new Biomedical Sciences Building dedication and academic program will be held on May 11.

The building is a \$75 million, 160,000 square-foot interdisciplinary facility that houses researchers affiliated with the College of Medicine, College of Public Health and Health Professions, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, as well as the research and administrative operations of the College of Engineering’s J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Guest speakers will make presentations from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. at the Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy Auditorium. The dedication will be 2 to 3 p.m. at the Biomedical Sciences Building, 1275 Center Drive.



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