



# RFUF

RETIRED FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INC.  
Gainesville, Florida

RFUF Newsletter, Vol. 28, No. 1, September 2003

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2003 - 2004

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

## President's Message

On behalf of the officers and the board of directors, I welcome you to the 2003-2004 RFUF meetings/seminars. A special welcome and invitation to newly retired faculty. The noted educator, William Lyons Phelps once said, "Those who decide to use retirement as a means of mental development, who love good music, good books, good pictures, good plays, good company, good conversation -- what are they? They are the happiest people in the world." Phelps' formula for happiness is certainly intrinsic to the RFUF. Our members provide good company and good conversation. Our programs are diverse, interesting, entertaining and timely, often on the cutting edge of research and development. We are fortunate to have the vast pool of UF resources and individuals who are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to present seminars.

This is our third year of meetings at the Harn Museum and most of us would agree that it is a great place to meet. The Harn staff has made us feel welcome; Development Coordinator Rachel Tench has seen to it that our weekly operational needs are met and Museum Director Rebecca Nagy has taken strides to make the museum visitor friendly. We appreciate the continued support of Provost David Colburn to underwrite the cost of operations and the invaluable help of Executive Assistant Cheryl Lautzenheiser.

Our 9:30 social time has been a success and we will continue to start the morning with coffee, juice, and donuts. Bob Ramey has passed the hospitality mantle to Bob Drummond, but will continue to assist as will Tzu Yuan and Virginia Strozier. Hart Stringfellow will continue anti-aging magic with his wit and jocular anecdotes. Last year's dedication meeting at Emerson Hall was a success due to the efforts of Lorene Noe of the UF Foundation. A wonderful supporter, she has agreed to make arrangements for our Oct. 22 meeting at Emerson Alumni Hall. President-Elect Jack Ohanian has the Fall schedule of seminars completed and it is a formidable line-up. President Charles Young will be the luncheon speaker for our meeting at the Paramount Resort (formerly the Sheraton) on Oct. 1st.

It is with regret that I had to accept the resignations, for health reasons, of two of our outstanding officers, Treasurer John Mahon and Membership Chair Don Hempson. They have made major contributions to the organization. We are pleased that Lucia Yu has accepted the position of Treasurer and Bob Ramey the position of membership chair for the coming year. See you at the luncheon on October 1st.

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• **Fall Luncheon**  
• **October 1, 2003**  
• **Paramount Resort**  
• Reservation Informa-  
• tion on page 8.  
• Deadline is  
• September 26, 2003  
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*Ed Petkus*

# Programs Fall 2003

<b>Wednesday, October 1, 11:30 am</b> Fall Luncheon Paramount Resort	DR. CHARLES E. YOUNG, President University of Florida
<b>Wednesday, October 8</b>	DR. DENNIS C. JETT, Dean of the International Center, University of Florida: <i>"Incoherence of American Foreign Policy and Why It's Here to Stay"</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>	DR. FLETCHER N. BALDWIN, JR., Professor of Law, University of Florida: <i>"Human Rights vs. War on Terrorism"</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 22, 9:30 am</b> ***Emerson Alumni Hall***	MS. BECKY BURLEIGH, Head Soccer Coach, University of Florida: <i>"Women's Soccer at the Collegiate Level and Beyond"</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 29</b>	MS. DALE B. CANELAS, Director of University Libraries, University of Florida: <i>"An Update of the Libraries and the Plans for Extension"</i>
<b>Wednesday, November 5</b>	DR. ROBERT J. FERL, Professor of Horticultural Sciences IFAS, University of Florida: <i>"Life to Mars: A Biologists Perspective on Extraterrestrial Habitation"</i>
<b>Thursday, November 13</b>	DR. BRIJ M. MOUDGIL, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Director of Particle Research Center, University of Florida: <i>"Engineered Particulate Systems in Pharmaceuticals, Microelectronics, Biotechnology and the Process Industry"</i>
<b>Wednesday, November 19</b>	DR. GORDON HUBBELL, Shark Researcher, Retired Zoo Veterinarian, and President of Jaws International: <i>"Life's Most Embarrassing Moments as a Zoo Veterinarian"</i>
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	DR. SEYMOUR BLOCK, Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering, University of Florida: <i>"A Taste of Franklin's Humor"</i>
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	DR. DUANE S. ELLIFRITT, Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering, University of Florida: <i>"Art and Engineering - Where Have All the Leonardos Gone?"</i>
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b>	GUITARIST KARL WEISMANTEL and MEMBERS of the GAINESVILLE FRIENDS OF JAZZ: <i>"Musical Forms of Jazz"</i>

ALL MEETINGS AT THE HARN MUSEUM FROM 9:30 - 11:00 AM, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ABOVE

\*\*\* Free Parking will be available for the **October 22nd** meeting at Emerson Alumni Hall at the church parking lot on NW 1st Ave. and NW 19th St., just behind the St. Augustine Catholic Church and Student Center -- just a block from Emerson Alumni Hall.

Parking permits for the Harn parking lots will be given out at the Fall luncheon on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Meet Your Officers

## President

Dr. Edward Petkus is a native of New Jersey and has lived in Gainesville for the past seven years. He retired from William Paterson University after twenty-nine years, the last five as chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. He received his B.A. in Education from William Paterson University, a M.A. degree in Personnel and Guidance from Montclair State University, and a Doctorate in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education from Rutgers University. Dr. Petkus has done post-graduate work in Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Fordham University. He is a member of Kappa Delta Phi Honor Society in Education.

In addition to his 42 years of teaching and administration in education, he has been a national reviewer of pre-publication texts for West Publishing Co. and Prentice Hall. Dr. Petkus has served on the New Jersey State Committee for the preparation of School Principals and was an assessor for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. He has been a lecturer and presenter of workshops in education and has presented papers at the Middle Atlantic States Philosophy of Education Society.

Since moving to Gainesville, Dr. Petkus has been active in civic and cultural organizations. He has served on the board of the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra and is currently Vice President of the Gainesville Friends of Jazz and Blues. He is also a member of the Gainesville Kiwanis Club. And certainly, not less important, Dr. Petkus is the father of five children and the grandfather of eight.

## President-Elect

Dr. Jack Ohanian is Professor Emeritus of Nuclear and Radiological Engineering at the University of Florida, having retired in July, 2001. During the preceding three years, he served as Interim Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School and subsequently as Interim Dean of Engineering. Prior to that he was Associate Dean for Engineering Research and Administration in the College of Engineering.

He was the 1994 chair of the American Association of Engineering Societies whose 28 member societies represent the mainstream of U.S. engineering. He was the 1990-91 national president of the American Nuclear Society and in 1990 to 2001 he chaired the five-member Board of Directors of the Florida Institute of Phosphate Research, an independent state research agency. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In May, 1994, his alma mater selected him as the Rensselaer Alumni Association Fellow, recognizing him for his life's work. In 1984, he received the Florida Blue Key Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of his achievements in the areas of teaching, research and service.

Dr. Ohanian is of Armenian descent and a native of Istanbul, Turkey. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering, magna cum laude from Roberts College in Istanbul. He received his M.S. in Electrical Engineering and his Ph.D. in Nuclear Science and Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He and his wife, Sandy, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

## Become a Member!

If you are not a member of RFUF, please join us and participate in the weekly meetings and other activities. Send your dues of \$8 per year.



Lucia Yu  
1717 NW 23rd Ave, Apt. 2B  
Gainesville, FL 32605

# News from the Colleges

## Fisher School of Accounting

The Accounting Program at UF has been ranked as one of the top programs in the country for a number of years. As the program has grown, so has the need for more and better-planned space. Ground breaking for a new facility, Gerson Hall, took place in October 2002. Construction of the facility was supported by gifts and pledges from all the major accounting firms and numerous individuals, including the lead gift from Gary Gerson (BSBA '54, MBA '55). In addition to the state matching funds that also funded construction, a special technology endowment was established to ensure that Gerson Hall will always have the most up to date facilities to offer students - state of the art work space and classrooms. Gerson Hall will include 5 classrooms, case breakout rooms, a graduate student reading room, conference rooms and faculty offices. A 3,000 square-foot commons area will accommodate a variety of student activities, including individual and group study, informal meetings and conversation areas. The commons area will open out to an adjoining terrace that can be used for receptions as well. The projected completion date is December 2003.

## Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

Because agriculture is such an inviting target for terrorists, a National Plant Diagnostic Network, a web-based reporting system designed to speed the detection of dangerous plant diseases and pests has been established. The network is comprised of 5 regional networks involving 5 major universities in the country: Cornell University for the northeast, Michigan State University for the north central, Kansas State University for the Great Plains, University of California at Davis for the west, and the University of Florida for the south. IFAS has received a \$900,000 homeland security grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to develop a web-based plant pest diagnostic and reporting system, which will help faculty and staff at UF and other land-grant institutions submit plant samples, digital images and detailed crop information for pest diagnosis.

Gail Wisler, Professor and Chair of Plant Pathology and Bob McGovern, Professor of Plant Pathology and Director of UF's plant medicine program, are co-directors of UF's new Southern Plant Diagnostic Network, which includes faculty in plant pathology, entomology and nematology, and agronomy. Prof. Wisler said the strengths of the system include:

- rapid evaluation and reporting of potential bioterrorist threats
- quick response time for diagnosis, real-time consultation with experts
- web-based secure communication links among regional and national diagnostic labs
- established links to regulatory agencies
- high quality record keeping and reporting of pest outbreaks
- high quality and uniformity of information associated with samples
- trained network of "first detectors"

(for full discussion see the Summer 2003 IMPACT article by Chuck Woods)

- continued on page 5

## Faculty Awards



Dr. Robert Cousins, Professor of Nutrition at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at UF has been named the winner of the 23rd annual Bristol-Myers Squibb/Mead Johnson Award for Distinguished Achievement in Nutrition Research. He was recognized for his contributions to micronutrient research, including his wide ranging and continuing focus on the metabolism and function of zinc in the immune system. Dr. Cousins is the Director of UF's Center for Nutritional Sciences and holds an Eminent Scholar Chair in Nutrition.

## Engineering

Engineering has a well-deserved reputation as a meticulous and detail-oriented profession. Yet, increasingly engineers are pushing the boundaries to areas outside their discipline's traditional scope. For example, the newest of the college's 11 departments, the biomedical engineering department, focuses on advanced simulation and other technologies that are erasing the distinction between medicine and engineering. In other departments, "engineering" means everything from helping to restore wetlands in Iraq (environmental engineering) to coaxing clues from biological systems on how to make airplane structures and wings lighter and stronger (aerospace engineering), to learning how to model and more accurately predict rip tides (coastal engineering). As the college broadens the scope of its research enterprise, opportunities for funding increase. In the 2001-2002 fiscal year total research funding rose to \$75.8 million and this year's funding is expected to top \$80 million.

The college's educational efforts are another gauge of its transforming impact on a changing profession. The newly launched Gator Trax, for example, provides an enhanced science and math program for middle and high school students. The goal of the program, which currently has an enrollment of about 300, is to increase the number of Black, Hispanic, and other minority students who attend college to earn math, science, and engineering degrees.

The college also remains strong in the traditional engineering arenas. Space research provides perhaps the best example. Just one year ago, NASA chose the college as the leader of a nearly \$16 million research initiative aimed at making space flight as routine, inexpensive and safe as commercial air travel. The Institute for Future Space Transport is just one of the several recently initiated NASA research centers in the college, which includes other centers devoted to producing hydrogen fuels and recycling materials. (Aaron Hoover, Science & Technology Writer)

The College of Engineering has signed a deal with Melbourne-based Harris Corp., that, in effect, creates a framework for future collaborations on research projects, transfer of intellectual property, and other activities between the university and the company. Harris Corp. previously has sponsored student projects and paid for a communications laboratory at the engineering college, but the new agreement represents a new level of cooperation. It will now be possible for the company and the college to join research and/or marketing and for Harris to license a technology to UF and let the university pursue further commercialization. Initial collaborations probably will center on wireless communication networks that would target the U.S. military. (Excerpted from the Gainesville Sun, July 30, 2003)



## Free Perks

With a *Gator One Card* retired faculty can receive:

- ◆ GatorLink - Webmail
- ◆ Parking Permits (permit to search)
- ◆ Library Privileges
- ◆ Avis car rentals at State of Florida rates
- ◆ Access to U.F. golf course, but no special rates

Remember overseas, your **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** insurance telephone number is (804) 673-1686 and on the internet [www.BLUECARD.com](http://www.BLUECARD.com).

# Economic Benefits Committee Report

by Cecil N. Smith, Chair

Last summer and fall the Miami Herald, The Orlando Sentinel, and other state newspapers ran one or more articles about the Florida Retirement System. Harriet Johnson Brackey's article in the Herald was entitled "Thinking of retirement? Fla. system hale, for now." She reported that the FRS is both financially sound and facing big challenges and that, as of last November, it was a balance that was working out well.

For many years the Fund has huge "unfounded liabilities" that required the Legislature to chip in billions of dollars from the general taxpayer. As most members of the FRS are aware, changes were made in the system several years ago whereby members could shift from the regular state program to one in which the member controlled his or her personal investment plan by making decisions on where to invest funds. One advantage of the new investment system is that the members become vested in one year rather than the five years for the regular system. Byron W. Mixson, Legislative co-chairman of the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA), writing in the March 2003 issue of the FREA Bulletin, stated that only 2.56 percent of the 298,661 actively employed educators selected the personal investment plan. It appears that less than 5 percent - and possibly less than 3 - of all employees participating in the FRS will have chosen the personal investment plan when final figures are announced. This can be compared with the high prediction of 45 percent that some proponents of the investment plan made several years ago.

Membership in the FRS was 877,587 as of July 1, 2001. Of these, 612,350 were active members and 188,512 were retired members. In addition, there were 53,288 terminated vested members and 23,447 DROP members. The Legislative Committee of the FREA has been urging that the FRS be transferred to the Trustees of the State Board of Administration from the Department of Management Services. Legislators have indicated that this is the Governor's call. FREA leaders are concerned that efforts will be made to "privatize" or further "downsize" the Retirement Division. The co-chair of the FREA has asked that if any of the members of that organization have opportunity to give input to their legislators, they ask them to help protect the Division. I would urge the same for RFUF members.

## An Invitation to Get Involved with First Year Florida



**Interested in helping UF freshmen get off to a good start?** Spend an hour a week with an undergraduate peer leader teaching First Year Florida. FYF is the first-year student's guide to academic success. This one-credit, one-hour per week course is packed with the tips, tricks, and tactics necessary for survival on this large, diverse campus. Each section of First-Year Florida is twenty-five students or fewer, thus allowing new students to get the attention they deserve.

FYF provides freshmen a jumpstart on their UF experience. For further info on the syllabus and course goals go to <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/preview/firstyearflorida/index.html>

What's in it for you? Not a large monetary award (we can provide \$ 500.00 in support for travel to conferences and the like) but the satisfaction of helping UF students get off on the right foot. And working with a very good undergraduate peer leader will provide assistance and support so this is not a time-consuming commitment.

For additional information, please contact Sheila Dickison at [doctord@ufl.edu](mailto:doctord@ufl.edu) or call 392-1519. A small number of sections will be offered in spring semester; a larger number of sections are offered in the fall semester.

## “Who’s In Charge”

### Florida’s Board of Governors

The current system of governance for Florida’s University System includes so many players it is hard to keep track of the decision-making process. The university administrations, faculties, the University President’s Association, the University Boards of Trustees, the Board of Governors, the Governor’s Cabinet and the Legislature all seem to have a hand in the process. Hence, some confusion exists at all levels. The University President’s Association threatened to cap freshmen enrollment unless the Legislature came through with sufficient funds to pay for enrollment growth. But the Board of Governors decided that they, not the presidents, should set enrollment policy. The board also decided that they needed to be able to evaluate university performance since, according to a new state law, 10% of university funding will be based on “performance” starting next year. Now, how in any reasonable way, can one compare the performance of the University of Florida with the University of North Florida, for example. These are two vastly different institutions, serving very different student bodies. Well, of course, suggested board members, we will use standardized tests, such as CLAST. Also, we will look at graduate rates, research funding, student performance on licensure exams, etc. But since the only comparable factor would be performance on a standardized test, can’t you guess which measure would primarily be used. University education would now be placed on the same evaluation level of performance as the public schools. Hence, will U.F. faculty have to spend valuable time, as teachers in the public schools do, “teaching to the test” so that our sophomores will pass the CLAST, that we will get the 10% funding? As an afterthought, board members also want to “rein in” the active lobbying teams employed by the universities. As one member pointed out, “If the universities are going to have 11 teams of lobbyists wandering around Tallahassee, there’s room for some serious mischief here.” I wonder if we all don’t see some mischief already in the actions and musings of Florida’s Board of Governors and their legislative counterparts in the state government.

--Madelyn Lockhart



**Check out our Website** for current information

[www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu](http://www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu)

## *In Memorium*

*We regret to announce the departure from this life of our retired colleagues. We extend our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.*

Thomas Abbott, Speech Pathology  
James L. App, Cooperative Extension Service  
Herbert H. Bryan, Tropical Research & Education Center  
Allen Cook, Agronomy  
Ralph A. Eastwood, Food & Resource Economics  
Charles S. McCoy, Religion

Michael J. Moorhead, Law  
Robert S. Mullin, Plant Pathology  
Thomas O. Neff, Sr., Engineering  
Robert E. Norris, Cooperative Extension Service  
Katherine L. Steele, Instructional Resources  
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# RFUF

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## RFUF Fall Luncheon

**OCTOBER 1, 2003**  
PARAMOUNT RESORT (Formerly the Sheraton)

TICKETS - \$13.00 EACH

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL LUCIA YU AT (352) 373-7132  
RSVP BY **SEPTEMBER 26, 2003**



## RFUF Annual Dues

**Please send a check for  
dues to:  
RFUF  
c/o Lucia Yu  
1717 NW 23rd Ave  
Apt. 2 B  
Gainesville, FL 32605**

\$8.00	ANNUAL DUES	Am.	Pd.	_____
Name: _____				
Address: _____				
_____ Phone: _____				
Retired from _____ Dept. _____				
College/University				