



# RFUF

RETIRED FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INC.

September 2008

Volume 33, Number 1

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2008-2009

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## President's Message

Welcome back to another exciting fall season for the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida (RFUF). I trust that the summer break included both interesting travels, new experiences, and fulfilling activities for each of you.

The Fall Luncheon is scheduled at 11:45 AM on Wednesday, October 1 at the Paramount Resort. Beginning on October 8, weekly meetings will be held as usual on Wednesday mornings at the Chandler Auditorium of the Harn Museum of Art.

President-Elect Dennis McConnell has arranged an outstanding group of speakers for the Fall Programs. Speaker topics include creative academic activities by current faculty at the University of Florida, as well as innovative activities by individuals and organizations in the Gainesville community. Question and answer discussions following the talks provide attendees the opportunity to interact directly with the speakers. These programs will entertain, challenge, and inform us.

This fall, emphasis will be given to growing the membership. One simple way to initiate growth is for each member to invite a retired acquaintance or friend to attend an RFUF meeting as a guest! Hopefully, attendance will encourage guests to join our group. The RFUF meetings offer opportunity to make new friends, meet with current friends, and hear informative/inspiring talks. Ample facilities are available at the Chandler Auditorium for additional members. *Plan to attend RFUF meetings this fall, as well as, bring a guest!*

*Robert Mansell*

## Fall Luncheon

Paramount Plaza Hotel and Suites  
October 1, 2008 11:45 a.m.

Cost: \$18.00

## **P**rograms Fall 2008

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Speakers for 10:00 AM Meetings at the **Chandler Auditorium in the Harn Museum of Art**  
[Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 AM]:

- October 8**            **REBECCA NAGY**, Director, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art  
                              *“Our Vision for the Harn Museum for the Next Five Years”*
- October 15**          **BRYAN KRATZER**, Photographer, *The Gainesville Sun*  
                              *“Past, Present, Future Use of Newspaper Photo Image”*
- October 22**          **ROBERT GRIST**, Chairman, Landscape Architecture Department, UF  
**RICHARD SCHNEIDER**, Professor, Urban and Regional Planning  
Department, UF  
                              *“Master Planning for Anti-terrorism”*
- October 29**          **MICHAEL MARTINEZ**, Professor, Political Science Department, UF  
                              *“Forecasting the 2008 Election”*
- November 5**          **MICHAEL KANE**, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, UF  
                              *“Plant Micropropagation Technology: Global Agricultural Impact”*
- November 12**        **STEPHEN CRAIG**, Chairman, Political Science Department, UF  
                              *“Election Post Mortem”*
- November 19**        **BARBARA PURDY**, Professor, Anthropology Department, UF  
                              *“Florida’s People during the last Ice Age”*
- December 3**          **KURT AUFFENBERG**, Museum Coordinator, Florida Museum of Natural  
History  
                              *“Pakistan: Snails and Lizard Tails”*
- December 10**        **WILLIAM KEEGAN**, Curator, Caribbean Archeology, Florida Museum of  
Natural History  
                              *“Native Perspectives of the Natural History of the Caribbean”*

### **Campus USA Credit Union Donation**

*Larry Scott, CEO of Campus USA Credit Union, has provided \$500 to RFUF for coffee and doughnuts for the 2008-2009 year. The RFUF thanks Larry and Campus USA Credit Union for their generous donation.*

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- October 1**  
**11:45am**  
**Paramount Plaza**  
**Hotel and Suites**
- FALL LUNCHEON, Speaker:** Jeremy Foley, Director of Athletics,  
University Athletic Association, University of Florida  
**“Gator Update”**
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## Awards and Honors

- ★ **John Griggs Thompson**, Graduate Research Professor at UF, won one of the world's most prestigious awards in mathematics, the ABEL Prize, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science. He shares this prize with Jacques Tits of the College of France for their contributions to modern group theory, the mathematical study of symmetry, considered one of the greatest achievements in mathematics.
- ★ **Rudolf Kalman**, former Director of UF's Center for Mathematical System Theory, received the Charles Stark Draper Prize for the development of the Kalman Filter, which uses a mathematical technique to remove "noise" from series of data. It was used during the Apollo space program and other applications include target tracking by radar, global positioning systems and atmospheric observations. Dr. Kalman is also the recipient of the 1985 Kyoto Prize, called the Japanese Nobel Prize.
- ★ **Kevin Folta**, Assistant Professor of Horticultural Sciences has received the Howard Hughes Distinguished Mentor Award for his efforts in encouraging undergraduates and developing undergraduate research.
- ★ **Nan-Yao Su**, Professor of Entomology at UF's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center has been selected by the Entomological Society of America as its EMA Fellow for his research, teaching, and extension contributions. His research led to the development of the Sentricon Termite system which has reduced pesticide use by more than 6,000 metric tons.
- ★ **Peter Hansen**, Professor of Animal Science, was named a 2007 Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was recognized for his contributions to reproductive biology to overcome infertility in dairy cows.
- ★ **Helen Safa**, Professor Emerita, Center for Latin American Studies was awarded the 2007 Silvert Award from the Latin American Studies Association, its highest award given for a lifetime achievement in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
- ★ **Alto Straughn**, Professor Emeritus in Agricultural Education and Extension was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. Professor Straughn was an innovator leader in blueberry production and in new watermelon production technologies and was actively involved in the 4-H development program.
- ★ **Grant McFadden**, Program Director for the Emerging Pathogens Institute was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.
- ★ **Christopher Peterson**, Professor of Law, was named Consumer Advocate of the Year by the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators.
- ★ **Stephen Dorman**, Dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, received the 2007 William A. Howe Award from the American School Health Association.
- ★ **Julie Johnson**, Director of UF's Center for Pharmacogenomics, received the Paul R. Dawson Biotechnology Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.



## The Gator Nation is Everywhere

**MARS:** The landing of the Phoenix on Mars was an exciting step forward. If significant discoveries are made on the red planet, UF professors and students can take some credit. Working with a team from the University of Central Florida, they created color-calibration targets for the camera aboard Phoenix. The targets allow scientists to know what makes up the terrain on Mars and thus, where to dig for water. Finding water is evidence of life on Mars, the main purpose of the mission.

**THE CANARY ISLANDS:** The Gran Telescopio Canarias, a giant telescope which UF students and faculty had a part in designing and constructing, had its grand opening ceremony this summer. King Juan Carlos I of Spain presided over the ceremony. The University of Florida with a 5% stake is the only U.S. institution sharing this telescope.

**CHINA:** In addition to providing graduate education in China, UF is also well represented in the Olympics. Three Gator swimmers, Ryan Lochte, Dara Torres and Caroline Burckle, were among the 20 Gators representing us at the Olympics.

**AROUND THE WORLD:** Even with the unfavorable exchange rate of the dollar in many countries of the world, more Gators than ever before are going abroad, 4% more than last year. UF has 1,250 Gators around the world; 850 of them in 52 programs in 28 countries. They are studying a variety of topics from religion and women's studies in India to business in Ireland. Beyond the traditional European countries, UF has created summer programs in China, New Zealand, and Fiji, many of them longer than the traditional 6-week summer courses.

## ON THE CAMPUS AND AROUND FLORIDA

**MARKS OF EXCELLENCE:** A program funded by the UF Alumni Association will construct a series of markers on campus and at satellite facilities around the state to recognize historic research, scholarship and service. The first marker located between Ben Hill Griffin Stadium and the Stephen C. O'Connell Center is "Gatorade's Birthplace," in honor of Dr. J. Robert Cade who produced the world's first and most popular sports drink. The University plans to have dozens of markers connoting important contributions of faculty and students and will provide maps for a campus walking tour.

**THE ENGINEERS WIN AGAIN:** The UF chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers won second place at the 20th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition in Seattle. The Orange and Blue, a 19 foot, 135 pound concrete canoe, one of 22 canoes competing, earned the UF chapter \$2,500 for scholarships.

**LOTS OF WIND:** UF wind engineers have constructed the world's largest portable hurricane and rain simulator. They plan to use the simulator to blast vacant homes with winds of up to 130 mph in order to learn more about exactly how hurricanes damage homes and, in turn, more about how to construct homes to minimize the effects of hurricanes and heavy rain.

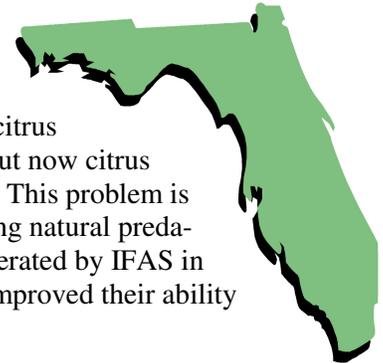
**RESEARCH FUNDING:** UF hit a new high in research funding in 2007, reaching a record \$583 million, in part due to a 92% increase in state funding, which was mainly for the Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Center for Bio-Nano Sensors. The total increase of 12% was shared by the UF units:

Health Science Center:	\$316.8
IFAS:	\$93.5
Engineering:	\$69.0
CLAS:	\$48.0
Remaining Units:	\$55.6

## IFAS: A HUGE FOOTPRINT ON THE FLORIDA ECONOMY



**Citrus Greening, A New Threat.** Citrus canker which has been a persistent problem for Florida's \$9.3 billion citrus industry has received much attention from IFAS researchers. But now citrus greening is a more worrisome threat and a top IFAS research priority. This problem is being attacked by improving early detection, by testing new pesticides, by releasing natural predators, and by developing resistant varieties. In addition, a diagnostic laboratory operated by IFAS in cooperation with the U.S. Sugar Corporation in Clewiston is helping growers to improved their ability to detect the disease.



**Do you hate the little labels that are attached to fruits and vegetables?** This may soon be a part of the past. Greg Drouillard, a former U.F. researcher in IFAS, developed a laser marking system and Ed Etxeberria, Professor of Horticultural Sciences has been testing a laser-beam system on oranges and other fresh produce. The switch to lasers will reduce labeling costs by more than half while improving food safety and speeding up scanning at the check-out counter. Sunkist Growers are providing equipment for this research at UF's Lake Alfred Center.

**The German cockroach is smarter than we think.** It has developed resistance to many pesticides and is avoiding commonly used baits. Professor Phil Koehler, who directs UF's Urban Entomology Laboratory, is working with pest control operators and product manufacturers to produce more effective baits. So far, the German cockroach has managed to adapt!! So the research goes on.

**Research by IFAS on ethanol and other biofuels is attracting international attention.** A new ethanol research facility to develop fuel ethanol from plant waste will be operated by UF in cooperation with the Verenium Corporation and Florida Crystals Corporation. The bioconversion technology is also being used by BioEthanol Japan in Osaka.

**Bees, for their honey as a source of food and for their venom for medicinal purposes, have been useful for a long time.** Today, in the U.S., there are 2.4 million bee colonies producing honey and pollinating about \$5.7 billion in crops annually. However, a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder, or CCD, is wiping out whole hives in record numbers. Assistant Professor Jamie Ellis and Professor Glenn Hall, Department of Entomology and Nematology are baffled as to whether it is a genetic weakness or parasite-spread pathogens, pesticides and other environmental pollutants. Florida, long the winter home to the nation's beekeeping industry, is adding CCD to their worry of the threat of Africanized, or "killer" bees.



**Native Counterparts.** A huge Cuban tree frog has invaded South Florida and may threaten its native counterparts, according to Professor Steve Johnson. It may become a serious threat to homes and other buildings. Cuban tree frogs adapt well to residential areas and can enter homes through pipes and open doors. These amphibians have already become a nuisance to homeowners and utilities workers.

**Economic and environmental sustainability are vitally important to Florida's economy.** IFAS is working with ranchers, state and federal agencies and private groups to attack serious problems of water resources, wetlands and wildlife habitats in Florida. The Florida Ranchland Environmental Services Project is designing and testing a program that will compensate ranchers who protect the Everglades ecosystem. The IFAS footprint continues to grow throughout Florida.

## THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS FALL EVENTS

### **School of Art and Art History:**

A site specific digital media installation by Tim Laun and Marisa Maza, highlighting the artistic elements of athletics will be available for viewing from October 7th to December 5th. And join Albert and Alberta, cheerleaders and coaches and their wives, and the Gator Band from 7-9, October 10 for the Roar of the Crowd's public reception in the Fine Arts Courtyard. For membership information, call 273-3047 or visit [www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries/membership.html](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries/membership.html).

 **School of Music:** The College of Fine Arts Jazz Band will perform on November 30th at 7:30pm in the University Auditorium. Tickets are \$8.00. Call 392-ARTS. UF concert ensembles will perform *Sounds of the Season* at 6pm on December 7th in the University Auditorium. Admission is free.

 **School of Theatre and Dance:** Two shows for the Fall: *George Washington's Boy* at the Constans Theatre at 7:30pm, September 19-28 and *Cloud Nine* at Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre, at 7:30, Oct. 10-19. Tickets for both shows are \$9 for senior citizens, faculty and staff and \$13 for general admission. Call (352) 392-1653 or check [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

## Fall Exhibitions at the Harn

*Almost Alice: New Illustrations of Wonderland* by Maggie Taylor from July 15th to October 19, 2008. Forty-five digital pigment inkjet prints by Maggie Taylor showcase her innovative mastery of digital image manipulation and give fresh insight into Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Taylor's prints engage imaginative minds of all ages. A national tour is planned along with a publication of a new edition of Carroll's book, featuring Taylor's illustrations.

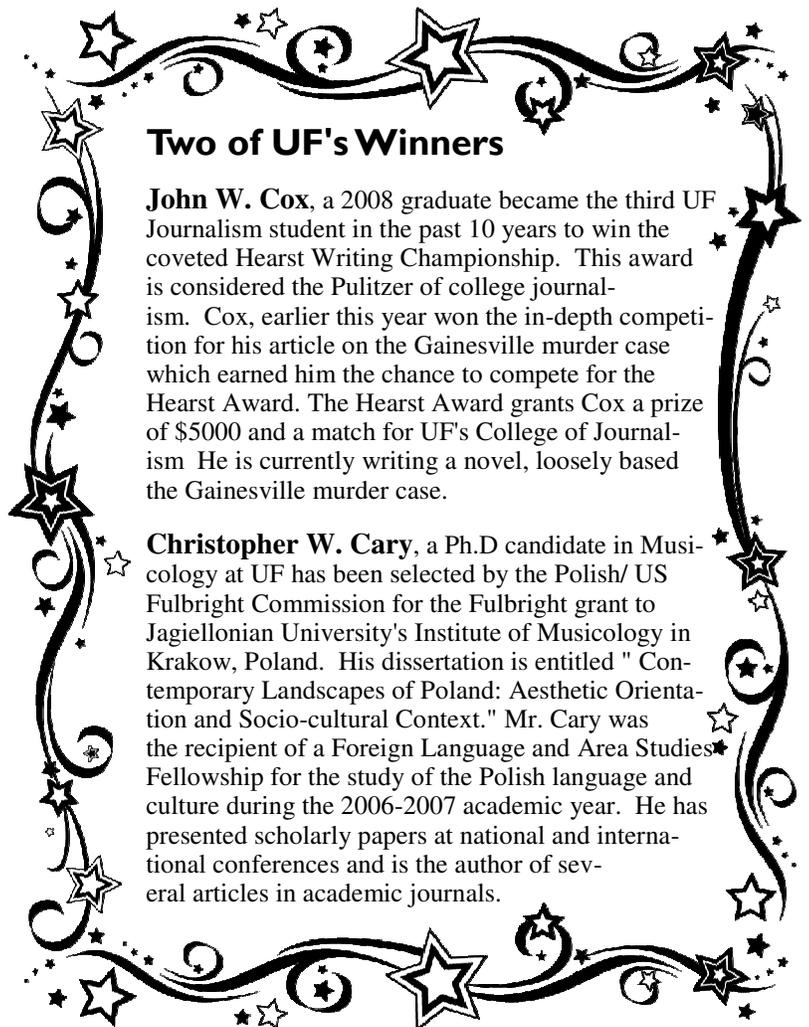
From October until January, The Harn will feature a groundbreaking exhibition titled "**Promise of**

**Paradise: Staging Mid-Century Miami**" which is devoted to the architects, designers and urban planners of mid-20th century Miami. The exhibit will present a selection of more than 200 extraordinary objects showcasing the architectural designs, furniture, textiles, and decorative art of South Florida's most innovative designers. A number of scholarly programs are planned to complement the exhibition that will bring an interdisciplinary audience to the university. The exhibition is accompanied by a book which will highlight the architecture and urban design, depicting the lifestyle of tropical Miami in the past century.

## Two of UF's Winners

**John W. Cox**, a 2008 graduate became the third UF Journalism student in the past 10 years to win the coveted Hearst Writing Championship. This award is considered the Pulitzer of college journalism. Cox, earlier this year won the in-depth competition for his article on the Gainesville murder case which earned him the chance to compete for the Hearst Award. The Hearst Award grants Cox a prize of \$5000 and a match for UF's College of Journalism. He is currently writing a novel, loosely based the Gainesville murder case.

**Christopher W. Cary**, a Ph.D candidate in Musicology at UF has been selected by the Polish/ US Fulbright Commission for the Fulbright grant to Jagiellonian University's Institute of Musicology in Krakow, Poland. His dissertation is entitled "Contemporary Landscapes of Poland: Aesthetic Orientation and Socio-cultural Context." Mr. Cary was the recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for the study of the Polish language and culture during the 2006-2007 academic year. He has presented scholarly papers at national and international conferences and is the author of several articles in academic journals.



### *In Memoriam*

*We regret to announce the departure from this life of our retired colleagues.*

**Norman Ackerman**  
Veterinary Medicine

**Ernest R. Bailey**  
Urban and Regional Planning

**Gordon Bigelow**  
English

**Courtland Collier**  
Civil Engineering

**Joe Richard Crockett**  
Genetics

**Margaret Early**  
Education

**Thomas D. Furman**  
Environmental Engineering

**Mildred M. Griffith**  
Botany

**Smith Kirkpatrick**  
English

**Ruby Lee**  
Physical Education

**Sidney Marshall**  
Dairy Science

**Paul Moore**  
Speech

**Arthur B. Otis**  
Physiology

**Robert B. Parker**  
Veterinary Medicine

**John A. Penrod**  
English

**Ruby Lee Pye**  
Physical Education

**Malcom Randall**  
Health Science Administration

**Herman J. Reitz**  
Horticulture--Lake Alfred

**Ernest St. Jacques**  
Academic Affairs

**James H Schaub**  
Civil Engineering

**Richard P. Schmidt**  
Medicine

**Robert James Scholes**  
Linguistics

**Paul Smith**  
Microbiology

**Douglas Snowball**  
Accounting

**Jennet Mae Wilson**  
Nursing

**David M. Young**  
Medicine

### MEMBERSHIP

If you aren't a RFUF member -----yet !

The University of Florida Foundation's listing of UF retired faculty and administrators numbers 500 of us living in the Gainesville area. Those folks 55years and older who have at least 10 years of service in a department or center are eligible to join RFUF, as are retired faculty members from other universities. This newsletter is mailed to all known retired faculty living in the Gainesville area even if they are not current members of RFUF. If you haven't joined us, we would like to invite you to attend one or more of our meetings this spring as our guest. Have a cup of coffee and a donut, some good conversation with friends and hear a great talk.

We are sure that a couple of visits will convince you to join us as a regular member. The annual dues are only \$15 and we meet at the Harn Museum every Wednesday during the academic year. We begin with coffee, donuts and conversation at 9:30 am and the meeting begins at 10am . We adjourn no later that 11am. Check out the schedule printed in this newsletter and come join us.

The fall luncheon will be held on October 1 at the Paramount Hotel. The speaker will be UF Athletic Director Jeremy Foley and his topic is *Gator Update*. The cost is \$18.00. Please use the reservation form on the reverse page. Please note the deadline of September 24, 2008

We use the "address label" to advise our members whether or not their annual dues are up to date.

<b>Date on Mailing Label</b>	<b>Take this Action</b>
09/30/08 or earlier	Pay \$15 (1) year's dues
09/30/09 or later	Your dues are paid up or ahead

Please use the form on the reverse page of this newsletter to submit your dues.



Check out Our Website: [www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu](http://www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu)



# RFUF

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dues to: RFUF,  
PO Box 15544  
Gainesville, FL  
32604-1554**

## RFUF Fall Luncheon

October 1, 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets @ \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline: **September 24**

## RFUF Annual Dues 2008/2009

\$15.00

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_