



RFUF

RETIRED FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INC.

September 2004

Volume 29, Number 1

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Fall Luncheon

Sept. 29, 2004

Paramount Resort

Reservation Information
on page 8.

Deadline is
September 15, 2004

President's Message

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the officers and board of directors, to welcome you to our 2004-05 program year. I extend a special welcome to newly retired faculty and invite you to join our organization. Duane Ellifritt, our President-Elect, has an excellent series of eleven seminars lined up for the fall with another full series planned for the spring. Our timely and informative seminars draw from the extensive talent base at the University of Florida and in the community. Moreover, the half-hour coffee time preceding the seminar is an excellent opportunity for good conversation in congenial company. *Please be sure to complete the membership/dues form on the back page and return it today!*

Our University is going through a major transition with a new President on board and some significant upcoming changes in the upper Administration. Thus we are looking forward, with anticipation, to Dr. Machen's seminar on October 20 and to learn about his vision for UF's future. Our kick-off luncheon on September 29th will feature Provost David Colburn and provide us the opportunity to thank him for his strong support of our organization.

Again, this year, our programs will be held at the Harn Museum and I want to take this opportunity to thank both Museum Director Rebecca Nagy and Development Coordinator Rachel Tench for making us welcome and for their support. The Museum's Chandler Auditorium is an excellent venue for our meetings with adequate parking.

Our membership now stands at about 230 and growing, thanks to the dedicated leadership of our membership chair Bob Ramey and his committee. The sunshine committee under Virginia Strozier's able leadership will continue to help us reach members who are ill and need to know that we care. Madelyn Lockhart is doing an excellent job in editing and preparing our newsletter with the able assistance of the Provost's Executive Assistant Cheryl Lautzenheiser. Thank you all!

I invite you to join us as often as you can on Wednesdays, 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the Harn and I look forward to seeing all of you at our kick-off luncheon on September 29.

Jack Ohanian

Programs Fall 2004

- September 29, 11:30 am*
Fall Luncheon—Paramount
Resort **DR. DAVID COLBURN**, Provost, University of Florida
“*Megatrends Florida: Past, Present & Future*”
- October 6* **DR. MICHAEL GANNON**, Professor Emeritus, History
“*Florida during the Last Ten Years: A Brief History*”
- October 13* **DR. PETER SCHMIDT**, Professor, Anthropology
“*Eritrea*”
- October 20* **DR. J. BERNARD MACHEN**, President, University of Florida
- October 27* **DR. MICHAEL MARTINEZ**, Associate Professor, Political Science
“*Election around the Corner*”
- November 3* **DR. KENNETH WALD**, Professor, Political Science
“*Election Post-Mortem*”
- November 10*
at Florida Museum of
Natural History **DR. DOUGLAS JONES**, Professor & Director, Florida Museum of
Natural History
“*Tour of New Lepidoptera Facility*”
- November 17*
at United Church of
Gainesville **DR. KURTIS GURLEY**, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering
“*Hurricane Research*”
at United Church of Gainesville, NW 17th St & 5th Ave
- December 1* **MR. JOHN MORAN**, Nature Photographer & Author
“*Journal of Light: the Visual Diary of Florida Nature Photographer*”
- December 8* **DR. FRED GREGORY**, Professor, History of Science
“*The Discovery of Neptune*”
- December 15* **DR. PAMELA DUNCAN**, Director, Brooks Center for
Rehabilitation Studies
“*Strokes: Research to Recovery*”
-

All Meetings are at 10 a.m. at the Harn Museum of Art, unless otherwise noted.

Faculty Awards

- **Dr. Kathleen Deagan**, Florida Museum of Natural History Distinguished Research Curator and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, will receive the 2004 J. C. Harrington Award in Historical Archaeology at the Society's Annual Conference. She is being recognized for a lifetime of contributions and outstanding scholarship.
- **Dr. Gabriel Bitton**, Professor of Environmental Engineering Sciences received a Doctoral Honoris causa from the Institute National Polytechnique de Lorraine at a special ceremony in France.
- **Dr. Jerald T. Milanich**, Florida Museum of Natural History Archaeology Curator and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, has been named the 2004 Florida Academy of Sciences Medalist Award winner in recognition of his promotion of scientific knowledge, stimulation of interest in science and the diffusion of scientific knowledge.
- **Dr. Dorota Haman**, Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, has been elected to the board of directors of the U. S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (USCID). The USCID is a member of the international organization of more than 70 countries and has been in existence since 1950.
- **Dr. Donald Caton**, author and Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology and of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was chosen as the next recipient of the History of Anesthesia Laureate Award of the Society of Anesthesiologists.
- **Dr. Vladimir A. Rakov**, Professor and Co-Director of the International Center for Lightning Research and Testing has been elected by the Council of the American Meteorological Society as an AMS Fellow for his outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. He was also named Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.
- **Dr. Lynn Bailey**, Professor in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) received the Centrum Center for Nutrition Science Award from the American Society of Nutritional Sciences, recognizing her contributions to the understanding of human nutrition.
- **Dr. Maria Gallo-Meagjer**, Associate Professor in IFAS, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award for Teaching and Research at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.
- **Dr. Elliott Jacobsen**, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, has received the 2004 Fredric L. Frye Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians.
- **Dr. John Kaplan**, Associate Professor in the College of Journalism and Communications, won the 2003 Feature Photography Award from the Overseas Press Club of America for his photo essay on West African torture victims.
- **Dr. Jan Shearer**, Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, who developed a bilingual program to train dairy workers in cow hoof care, received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award.
- **Dr. Jimmie Hinze**, Professor in the School of Building Construction, received the Peurifoy Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

I nterdisciplinary/International Education

Solutions to today's problems require researchers/educators to go beyond the confines of traditional university department and colleges. Nor are today's problem solvers easily confined to the artificial borders of universities or even geographical or political units. Today's educators must allow free movement among academic areas of study and exposure to ideas of scholars throughout the world. Almost 20 years ago at UF, the graduate faculty with the full support and encouragement of the Graduate Dean began constructing doctoral programs that crossed department and college lines. As these programs grew, interdisciplinary centers were developed, drawing on the faculty from the traditional disciplines.

There are today a large number of such centers at UF. For example, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has had for many years research centers throughout the state as well as extensive involvement in international programs, especially in the underdeveloped countries of the world. The College of Engineering has 11 traditional departments and over 30 interdisciplinary centers. Similarly, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has 22 traditional departments and over 40 interdisciplinary centers.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Among the centers in CLAS are two that are well-known and respected world-wide for their excellent international research and training. The Center for African Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies both have been funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Education for many years. Two more recently funded centers, Transnational and Global Studies Center and the Center for European Studies will enhance the college's continuing efforts to broaden its international and interdisciplinary educational programs. The new centers will offer language training as well as initiating students into the culture and economic/political environments of the "New Europe" and elsewhere in the world. They will rely on the faculty of the traditional departments.

College of Engineering

The College of Engineering calls Nanotechnology the "new frontier for the 21st Century engineer." Nanotech research has been going on in engineering laboratories for many years; to expand and support this interdisciplinary research, UF is establishing an Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology. This campus-wide program will encourage Engineering faculty to work with the faculty in the College of Medicine and with those in other science departments on the campus. For example, the biomedical area can benefit from the research efforts of this new field in exploring the behavior of cells as well as in the design of materials to expel bacteria. There are also on-going studies on controlling drug delivery and on discovering means to soak up toxins such as those resulting from drug overdose. Beyond these examples in the medical areas, the college will collaborate with faculty in other disciplines on interdisciplinary research in nansystems for the discovery of new analytical tools, studies in agricultural, environmental, and human nutrition technologies, in biomolecular electronics, in mind-machine interfaces and in high density electronic, photonic, and magnetic devices. The limits will only be those of ones imagination.

Colleges of Medicine & Dentistry

These colleges at UF also recognize that exposure to the cultures of other countries is an important part of ones professional training. And it is an added bonus if the faculty and students can provide a service to needy citizens of the underdeveloped parts of the world. One very worthy example of this service is provided by our medical and dental students who with faculty members have for many years gone to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Mexico to work among the poorest of the poor. Last December seventeen dental students went to a rural village deep in the valleys of the Dominican Republic. In one week in residence, they extracted 2,000 teeth from nearly 400 patients. Even more important was the reaction of the students to their patients: “The look on their faces expressed their gratitude even when language barriers inhibited their words. At the end of the day, you feel as though you’ve done so much for these people. We didn’t just treat their dental health.” Dr. Teresa Dolan, Dean of the College of Dentistry expressed a view which could apply to all students who travel and work abroad, “The student’s view of the world and their role as health professionals is enriched by these experiences in ways which will hopefully last throughout their professional careers.”

“The look on their faces expressed their gratitude even when language barriers inhibited their words.”

News of Note

- ◆ Dr. Yngve Ohrn, Professor of Chemistry and Physics, has been named the 2003—2004 University of Florida Teacher/Scholar of the year.
- ◆ The search for the position of Vice President for Student Affairs is complete with the appointment of Patricia Telles-Irvin who most recently served as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs at Florida International University. Dr. Mike Rollo who has served as Interim V.P. for Student Affairs will return to his previous position as Associate Vice President.
- ◆ Dr. Richard Jones is serving as Interim Vice President of IFAS during the search to replace Dr. Michael Martin who has accepted the position of President of New Mexico State University.
- ◆ Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Associate Dean of the Graduate School is serving as Interim Dean, pending a search.
- ◆ Dr. Win Phillips, Vice President of Research has been asked to serve as Director, a liaison between the University of Florida and the Scripps Institute in Palm Beach.
- ◆ Dr. David Colburn will be leaving his position as Provost and returning to the faculty in the Department of History at the conclusion of the Fall Semester.



Your Brain

Researchers are using multiple avenues to understand the mysteries of the brain. A team of University of Florida and Columbia University scientists are investigating the genetic underpinnings of nerve cells, including those responsible for learning and memory. This research utilizes a common sea slug with a very uncommon brain! The sea slug, a mollusk that weigh 6 to 7 pounds has the biggest brain cells in the animal kingdom, making slug cells simpler to examine and manipulate in the laboratory. The sea slug shares as many as half of its estimated 15,000 to 20,000 genes with people, including the genes implicated in Alzheimer’s disease and mental retardation.

Alzheimer’s affects more than one in 30 Americans and is receiving considerable research attention. Much of the study in the past has been to detect the onset of the disease as early as possible so as

to slow its progression. Vitamin C in combination with Vitamin E has been discovered to play an important role in prevention. A new drug, Namenda, which can be used to treat moderate to severe dementia, stabilizes and slows the progression of the disease; however, the brain cells continue to die. Research, such as that on the sea slug as well as other research avenues are looking at enzymes and genes to determine the role that they play.

These studies hope to develop drugs that will reverse memory loss.

So with the current emphasis of research on the brain, we are gaining more knowledge every day. And as we age, we can also help ourselves by vigorously exercising our brains. Recite the multiplication tables in the shower, learn a foreign language, and come to the Retired Faculty meetings and engage the speaker with your questions and comments. See you this fall!!

Census Gets Down to Details



The 122nd annual edition of the Statistical Abstract of the United States released recently by the Census Bureau contains nearly 1000 pages of statistics collected by the Bureau as well from private sources. Here is a sample of the interesting information:

- ◇ 36 % of the U.S. household that owned a pet had a dog, 32 % had a cat in 2000.
- ◇ 57 % of workers aged 25 and older used a computer on the job in 2001.
- ◇ 44 % of adults did volunteer work, contributing an average of 15 hours per month in 2000.
- ◇ Households in San Francisco-Oakland spent the most per year on food (\$ 7,442) and housing (\$ 19,682). The lowest spent for food (\$ 4,589) was in the Tampa-St. Pete area and the lowest for housing (\$ 10,451) was in Pittsburgh.

In Memoriam

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

Gustavo Antonini Geography	Clark I. Cross Geography	Irmgard Johnson Asian Studies	Earl G. Rodgers Agronomy
Lewis Berner Biological Sciences	William Downey, Jr. Medicine	Henry Kandrup Astronomy	Jean Tison Education
Franklin S. Blanton Medical Entomology	Elizabeth Eddy Anthropology	Paul Kotey African Studies	Edward Troupin Music
Emmett Bolch Environmental Engineering	Richard J. Elston Astronomy	Michael Moorehead Law	Boghos Sivazlian Engineering
Leighton E. Cluff Medicine	Thomas Freeman Plant Pathology	Ester Morgan Education	John Wethington, Jr. Engineering
Stephen S. Conroy History	Harry Griggs Journalism	Ralph L. Peek History	Richard Whitehead Dean of Admissions
	Kenneth Hughes Law	James Quarles Law	

MEMBERSHIP

The retired faculty organization, RFUF is always glad to welcome new members. All retired faculty of the University of Florida are eligible to join. Retired faculty who have served at least 10 years at another institution of higher learning are welcome as Associate members with a nomination of two current members.

Come join us—at \$8 a year for dues, RFUF is a real bargain with weekly programs of broad interest led by experts in their fields as well as coffee, doughnuts, and conversation with your colleagues. The first meeting to start off the academic year is a luncheon on Sept. 29 at the Paramount Resort and Conference Center on SW 13th St. The speaker will be Dr. David Colburn who will be leaving his position as Provost at the end of the fall semester to return to the faculty. Having served under Presidents Lombardi, Young and Machen, he will have many insights on UF to share with us. The luncheon cost is \$14 and you will need to make a reservation by sending a check to RFUF c/o Lucia Yu, 1717 NW 23rd Ave, Apt. 2B, Gainesville, FL 32605. The chart below indicates how to tell if your dues are up-to-date. If they are not, send your \$8 dues along with your reservation to Lucia Yu at the address above. Hope to see you at all of the fall sessions.



Please look at the mailing label on your newsletter. We use the “address label” to advise our members whether their annual dues payments are up to date. Please check the mailing label of this newsletter:

Date on Mailing Label

09/30/02
09/30/03
09/30/04 or later

Take This Action

Pay \$16 (2) years dues
Pay \$8 (1) year dues
Your dues are paid up to date or ahead



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RFUF Fall Luncheon	September 29, 2004
Name: _____	
Address: _____ _____	
No. of Tickets @ \$14.00 _____	Deadline: September 15

RFUF Annual Dues	\$8.00
Amount Paid \$ _____	
Name: _____	
Address: _____ _____	
Phone: _____	
Retired from _____	Dept. _____