

RFUF

RETIRED FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INC.

January 2008

Volume 32, Number 2

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2007-2008

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Madelyn M. Lockhart
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Spring Luncheon

11:45 a.m.

April 2, 2008

Paramount Plaza
Hotel and Suites

President's Message

It is hard to believe that our fall RFUF programs have ended. Time sure flies! Program Chair and President-Elect Robert Mansell has maintained the RFUF tradition of selecting outstanding speakers for programs. The attendance has been good, with a high of 95.

Treasurer William Van Dyke informs me that we now have 250 members for the 2007-08 year. Even though we have had an increase in membership and members attending our Wednesday programs, there is still space for more members and new members to attend. The facilities of the Harn Museum Chandler Auditorium are excellent for RFUF programs. I would like for each member to consider inviting persons eligible for membership in RFUF to be your guest at a meeting. Bring them to coffee and donuts before the meeting. This will give them an opportunity to look at RFUF and perhaps become active members. Nothing beats the personal touch.

Some of our members may not be aware of the time and energy that Madelyn Lockhart uses in getting out our RFUF Newsletter twice a year. I have received many compliments on the contents of the last Newsletter. Let Madelyn know if you like the newsletter.

Besides the Newsletter, Madelyn has made many contributions to RFUF. Now she would like for someone to step forward and assist her with the Newsletter and perhaps become the Editor in the future. A broad knowledge of UF would be helpful. The Provost Office staff provides assistance for the preparation of the Newsletter for publishing. We are grateful to the Provost for her continued support of RFUF. Any member interested in assisting Madelyn should contact her or me.

Special thanks to Jackie Orlando and Glenda Eldred for making the coffee (and cleaning up afterward) and to Ed Petkus for delivering the donuts every Wednesday.

Robert Mansell has lined up another semester of excellent speakers. I will be looking forward to your attendance at our meetings in 2008.

Raymond C. Andrew

Programs Spring 2008

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

- January 9 **JOEL DAUNIC**, CEO of The Generation Connection nonprofit and partner, Daunic Pitts Financial
"Generation Connection Camp where children are mentored by seniors"
- January 16 **DOUGLAS L. ARCHER**, Associate Dean for Research, IFAS, UF
"Is your food safe?"
- January 23 **MICHAEL E. MOSELEY**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, UF
"Pre-ceramic Civilization in Ancient Peru: Debate and Data"
- January 30 **HECTOR N. DELGADO**, Chief Engineer, Design and Development, John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA
"Going Beyond Shuttle"
- February 6 **MALCOLM SANFORD**, Professor Emeritus, Entomology Department, UF
"Honey"
- February 13 **TIMOTHY S. JOHNSON**, Associate Professor, Department of Classics, UF
"Discovering and Rediscovering Rome"
- February 20 **ALVIN WARNICK**, Professor Emeritus, Animal Sciences Department, UF
"Fifty-Five Years of the Florida Beef Cattle Industry"
- February 27 **GARY MILLER**, Co-Founder and Exec. Vice President of R&D, Exactech, Inc.
"Exactech, A Local Success Story"
- March 5 **ROBERT G. LANGFORD**, Professor, School of Music, UF
"The History of Jazz"
- March 12 **STEPHEN LAWRENCE**, Former Tuskegee Airman and Gainesville Resident
"The Tuskegee Airmen"
- March 19 **GEORGE LEBO**, Associate Professor Emeritus, Astronomy Department, UF
"Current NASA Space Programs"
- March 26 **KIM MAYDEN**, Executive Director, The Ronald McDonald House

April 2
11:45am
Paramount Plaza
Hotel and Suites

SPRING LUNCHEON, Speaker: Dr. J. Bernard Machen
President, University of Florida
"The University of Florida: Today and Tomorrow"

Awards, Appointments, and Recognition

Faculty

- ★ Marc Heft, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was selected president of the American Association of Dental Research.
- ★ Gregory Neimeyer, Professor of Psychology, and Nigel Richards, Professor of Chemistry, were inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars.
- ★ Scott Tomar, Professor and Chair of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, was elected vice president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.
- ★ Lisa Adams, Associate Professor of Psychology, was the 2007 recipient of the Youth Investigator Award for Sigma Xi.
- ★ Lawrence Brock, Assistant Professor of Periodontology, received the American Academy of Periodontology 2007 Educator Award.
- ★ Jennifer Elder, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Care Environment and Systems, received the 2007 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Distinguished Mentor Award.
- ★ William McKeen, Chair of the Department of Journalism, was named a fellow by the World Technology Network.
- ★ David Reitze, Professor of Physics, has been named spokesman for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration.
- ★ Richard Heipp, Professor of Art and Art History, was honored by the 2006 Southeastern Conference for Outstanding Artistic Achievement.
- ★ 33 UF faculty members were named UF Research Foundation Professors in 2006. This is a three year award which provides a \$5,000 yearly salary supplement and a \$3,000 grant. These awards are funded from UF's royalty and licensing income from technologies developed by faculty, staff and students.
- ★ Gregg Trop, UF Swimming Coach, has been named the SEC Men's Swimming Coach of the Year. This is the third year he has received this award.
- ★ 48 UF student athletes made the SEC 2006-2007 academic honor roll.



Newspaper articles have reported that FSU is leading the state universities in the mentoring and graduation rates of minorities. However, UF's College of Engineering is having even better results in its mentoring program. Dean Jonathan Earle, Associate Dean of Students in Engineering has received the US Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring at a White House ceremony on Nov. 16th. Dean Earle took over the mentoring programs for minority students in 1992 when the six year graduation rate was only 25%. Now the graduation rate for minorities is 52%, the same as the overall average for engineering students. This is a goal for all the colleges to meet.

Interdisciplinary Research

On to the Future Over 20 years ago with the support of a few faculty, the Graduate Dean began promoting interdisciplinary research in graduate degree programs. In spite of the barriers of the upper administration and the departments and colleges, five interdisciplinary degree programs were approved and doctoral degree committees were broadened to permit more than one faculty member from an “outside” department to serve. Crossing department/college barriers was “natural” since UF has the advantage of having all the academic and professional degree programs on one physical campus, an advantage shared by only two other of the major universities in the country. Although it has taken many years for the faculty to take full advantage of our wealth and barriers still exist, interdisciplinary research is finally breaking through all across the campus. And it is paying off in research funding. Here are just a few examples.



Medical Related Research A group of nine scientists from nine different departments have joined forces in a coordinated approach to studying cancer related diseases. The groups collaborating in the UF Shands Cancer Center have \$2.1 million in state research funds. Another group of scientists is working jointly on Parkinson’s disease from which 1.5 million Americans suffer, with 60,000 new cases each year. A third research team which represents 20 different academic departments is collaborating on how the brain, muscles, and skeletal systems interact. Using principles of engineering, neurophysiology and exercise science, they are attempting to develop an effective exercise program for persons with Parkinson’s disease. A group of faculty and students from Engineering, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine are researching the harmful effects of ultra small particles on living cells, organisms and the environment. Government agencies are concerned in that new regulations may be necessary to guard against the effects of nanoparticles.



IFAS and the College of Law Not all the interdisciplinary research is related to medicine. For example, there is a need for answers to the question of how to develop legal and palatable environmental land use requirements, ones that may affect agriculture, green space, water resources, energy and the comforts of life. This broad research project required a partnership of researchers in IFAS and in the College of Law’s Conservation Clinic, a partnership which includes also the UF Extension Service and the Florida Sea Grant College Program. Many local and statewide projects have benefitted from this collaboration, e.g., the Florida Yard and Neighborhood program and the Sea Grant’s boating and waterways management program. Currently, the Conservation Clinic is helping to develop a harbor management plan for St. Augustine. They are also preparing policy tool kits and guidelines for communities to manage the environment and handle other land use issues—projects necessary to leverage taxpayer dollars.

The Payoff In these days of state budgetary woes, interdisciplinary research has held UF together. What are the facts (as reported by Vice President Win Phillips)?:

1. UF ranks 17th among major universities, up from 21st just two years ago, outranking UC Berkeley and edging close to MIT and Duke.
2. While federal support for research is slowing down, increasing by only 2.9% last year, UF’s federal dollars increased by 11%.
3. Even state funding increased by 92%.

These results are due in part to a talented and active faculty and to a supportive environment. But also they are due to a research infrastructure that promotes interdisciplinary research, such as the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex and the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and BioDiversity. Coming on board in the near future is the BioMedical Science Building and the Nanoscale Research Facility. These, along with other planned facilities, will add more than a half million square feet of interdisciplinary research space to the campus.

Our technology transfer and commercialization have played an important role in moving research results to the market which has resulted in a jump in license income from \$11 million to \$40 million. UF is now ranked 5th nationwide on a technology transfer index. And we are just beginning to take advantage of the combination of our interdisciplinary wealth. Stay tuned—there is lots more to come.

The Sorry State of Primary Education



Data show that large numbers of our young people are not graduating from high school. And even those who do are frequently deficient in verbal, writing, and math skills. Laws requiring more and more testing, giving rewards and punishments to schools are not changing the picture. Research by Dr. David Figlio, UF Professor of Economics, reported that schools are using questionable methods to achieve higher test scores, such as providing energy foods on test days or suspending low achieving students during test days. (Florida caught this trick and stopped it.) In some schools, particularly ones in the northeast, “old fashioned” ideas are now coming to the fore, i.e., music and arts help to produce better math and science skills, and good penmanship produces writing skills, better essays and better math skills. Recent research adds that handwriting fluency is a fundamental building block of learning. Also, if spelling is a problem, math will also be a problem. We see the results of this lack of training in the fundamentals every day in our students, in some of our faculty, and in our daily newspapers and magazines. We need to:

1. bring our curriculum in the schools back to the basics, reading, writing and arithmetic, including music, the arts and physical education,
2. educate our teachers in the subjects they will teach,
3. train them in a mentorship program under a master teacher, and
4. pay them a competitive wage.

At the university level, we need to emphasize courses in the liberal and fine arts before we shuffle our students off to the colleges of business, engineering, agriculture and other professional fields.

A Bit of History

Do you remember what got the undergraduates' attention during your college days? The depression of the 1930's and the early 1940's dampened student activism, although there was still enough energy to conduct “panty raids.” This was a lively exercise in which boys climbed into girls' dorm windows and stole their panties. (I understood the symbolism of this action, but it didn't seem to “go” anywhere. However, my panties were stolen by Hal Holbrooke, who later became a star on Broadway, my only claim to fame!) This game came late to UF in the 1950's, when girls were admitted and there were girls' dorms to be invaded. The late 1950's brought student protests, not against injustice, but against Alachua County's restrictive liquor laws. It was a long drive south on 441 to Ruby's just across the county line. After this serious problem was “resolved,” students turned to protests against segregation. Huge rallies were organized to force the integration of The College Inn across from the campus. But then the Vietnam War (and the draft) roused the student protestors across the country –although there was not as much violence at UF as elsewhere. With the end of the Vietnam War (and the draft) rallies and student activism has been sporadic, never with the vigor and inclusion of the past. Do you wish for the students of yesterday who greeted you every day with a protest?



Your Pension is Safe

In February 2007, Standard and Poor's published a U.S. State Pension funding report. The Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan was identified as having the highest ratio of actuarial value of assets to the actuarial value of liabilities (funded ratio) of any U.S. public pension fund. As of June 2006, the FRS Pension Plan was funded at 107.3% with an actuarial surplus of \$7.6 billion. So even if the retired faculty and staff outlive predictions for a few years, our pensions are still due to arrive. Further information is available on the publications page of the Division's website (<http://frs.myflorida.com>) or toll free at 888-738-2252.

What's Coming to the Harn?

Vision / Revision: Contemporary Arts Nov. 2007—July 2008

Through the work of 26 international artists, *Vision/Revision* traces the multiple layers of meaning that can be created in response to a work of art. Concerned with historical positioning and repositioning, artists like Larry Rivers reinterpret the past in terms of the present. In another vein, artists such as El Anatsui and Zwelethu Mthethwa recycle cultural images and materials to create new meanings. Other artists such as Andy Warhol extend the idea of revision to blur the boundaries between original and copy. Warhol appropriates a news image of Marilyn Monroe to create iconic art and Yayoi Kusama reworks the paintings of her early years. Additional artists in the exhibition include Antoni Tapes, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Richard Anuszkiewicz, Red Grooms, William Ketrtridge and Liza May Post, among others.



UF's New Research Complex

Two new buildings of 75,000 square feet each will be built on the campus by Alexandria Real Estate Equities. The buildings to be located on Archer Road near the Cancer Center will be on UF land leased to this company. The lab space will be rented to UF researchers and the company will provide venture capital to prepare faculty research results for commercialization. The company will retain part ownership in such technologies. The Alexandria company is building similar facilities in North Carolina's Research Triangle and has 134 other such properties in U.S. and Canada.

Highlights from the Photography Collection March 2008—August 2008

The installation of approximately 40 photographs by University of Florida faculty and graduates celebrates almost a half century of the innovative and influential photography program. Beginning with the appointment of Jerry Uelsmann in 1968, UF has enjoyed a long line of illustrious photographers and teachers including Doug Prince, Todd Walker and Evon Streetman, and noted current faculty Sergio Vega, Max Bacher and Andrea Robbins and others. Renowned graduates of the program featured in this exhibition include Robert Fichter, Bea Nettles, Maggie Taylor and others. *Highlights from the Photography Collection* is made possible by J. Dustin Curbow and Paul D. Zirakian of Citigroup SmithBarney.

Engineering researchers at UF and Honeywell Aerospace are designing and building a computer projected to operate 100 times faster in space than any current computer. It is expected to be aboard the NASA rocket in 2009. Alan George, UF professor of electrical and computer engineering, the principal investigator, says there is need for more processing power in space since earth-bound computers are slowed by the cosmic radiation outside the earth's atmosphere.



In Memoriam

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

Roger Gordon Bates
Chemistry

James Robert Cade
Medicine

Richard G. Connell
Material Science—Engineering

Kenneth L. Tefertiller
IFAS

George E. Gifford
Medicine

John L. Gray
Forest Resources

Neill W. Maccaulay, Jr.
Latin American History

Jose Medina
Dentistry

Nathan W. Perry
Clinical Psychology

Frank M. Polack
Ophthalmology

Glenn Schoessow
Mechanical Engineering

Marvin Shaw
Psychology

Victor Michael Shille
Veterinary Medicine

Earl Lewis Stone
Soil Science

*Also, we wish to remember **Noel R. Lake** who spent a lifetime designing and maintaining one of the most beautifully landscaped campuses in the country, UF.*

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 spring luncheon will be held on April 2nd at the Paramount Hotel. The speaker will be President J. Bernard Machen and his topic is *The University of Florida: Today and Tomorrow*. You will receive a reservation form for the luncheon in March, but mark your calendars now so that you can join us for the last meeting of the academic year.

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

Date on Mailing Label

09/30/07 or earlier

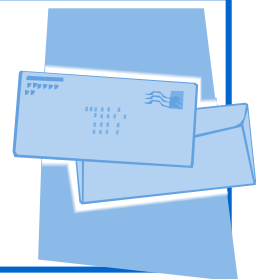
09/30/08 or later

Take this Action

Pay \$15 (1) year's dues

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



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