

ACADEMICS

A Monthly Newsletter for the Faculty of the University of Florida

Published by the Faculty Senate

Buzz:

Communication as a Foundation for the Gator Nation

By **Kim Tanzer**, *Faculty Senate Chair*

Item: Early in his tenure as UF President, Dr. Young, 30-year Chancellor of UCLA, observed to the Senate Steering Committee that we at UF are much better than the world knows. He speculated that we do not sing our own praises, particularly in national settings.

Item: The UF Faculty Surveys done in 2004 and 2005 show that administrators are significantly more positive about the University of Florida's efforts in every dimension than are faculty members. In part this may reflect the fact that administrators are more aware of UF's successes, and of institutional efforts to create positive change.

In my mind these items are linked by the common problem of inadequate communication. This newsletter, begun by my predecessor, Pierre Ramond, is an effort to build redundancy into our communications network. It will be sent monthly from the Office of the Faculty Senate Chair to the entire faculty.



Kim Tanzer

It is our hope that ACADEMICS will match UF's well-developed vertical chain of command model (provost-dean-chair-faculty-chair-dean-provost) with a strong lateral communication network. ACADEMICS is intended to reiterate messages, often well known to deans, regard-

see Buzz, pg. 6

People:

The President's Cabinet

By **Bernie Machen**, *University President*



*President
Bernie Machen*

I'm pleased to begin this academic year with a stellar senior leadership team.

It's often been said that the University of Florida is better than its reputation. We know the expertise and variety at UF tower over that of most public and private universities. The cabinet members I've assembled have the skills, knowledge and experience to make the most of our size in raising UF's profile and standing.

In putting together this administration, I sought leaders within and outside the university, from both the public and private sectors. I also sought to bring in fresh perspectives while maintaining current areas of strength. Finally, I wanted people who could think and act forcefully and independently, but also work together.

Thanks to the hard work of many diligent search committee members, patience and no small amount of luck, I got what I hoped for.

I also reorganized the leadership structure to maximize the team's effectiveness. As one example, with faculty and staff issues on my priority list, I created the position of vice president for human resources, one filled by the capable Kyle Cavanaugh.

see Cabinet, pg. 6

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Interdisciplinarity: Why Does it Matter?

By Angel Kwollek-Folland, CLAS Associate Dean for Centers, Institutes and International Affairs.



Angel
Kwollek-Folland

Research and teaching that bridges the disciplines is now a commonplace in all higher education institutions, for several reasons. In the past 40 years, the cross-fertilization of the “traditional” disciplines (some of them not much more than 100 years old) has become increasingly necessary in order to respond to the complex questions facing researchers and teachers. The

grounds of the disciplines themselves have eroded as interdisciplinary approaches have reshaped them. The sociologist who asks how individual gender or racial identity is formed within a political movement profitably draws on psychological, historical, or linguistic premises and methods. There are indications that researchers and teachers find working with others of different disciplinary backgrounds more stimulating and rewarding than a narrow disciplinary focus. The undergraduate experience, which asks students to be anthropologists at 8:00 on Monday morning and mathematicians at 3:00 that afternoon, is inherently multidisciplinary, if not organized to take full advantage of interdisciplinary perspectives.

Interdisciplinarity is embedded in the budgets and intellectual missions of universities. Topical and area studies programs and centers, such as UF’s centers for African Studies and Gerontological Studies, and courses that focus on the history of cities, the gendering of science, or the cultural production of language, all rely on researchers and teachers who draw on insights and methods from several disciplines. Some institutions—the University of Wisconsin comes to mind—have hired faculty on topical lines outside of the usual departmental structure. At UF, the number of centers and institutes formed to pursue interdisciplinary research and teaching has grown exponentially in the past 10 years. The challenge facing universities, in fact, is not so much how to encourage interdisciplinary research and teaching as it is to find ways to remove institu-

tional barriers, evaluate and monitor research projects and coursework, and equitably apportion resources.

Angel Kwollek-Folland is Professor of Women’s History and the CLAS Associate Dean for Centers, Institutes and International Affairs

By: Winfred M. Phillips, Vice President for Research



Winfred M. Phillips

Interdisciplinary research is a defining element of 21st century science. It is central to genomics, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, biomedicine and the investigation of global climate change, among other fields.

But the seemingly simple act of researchers pursuing investigations outside their specialties or crossing disciplinary boundaries to work together faces a centuries-old academic tradition of isolating specialization. The National Institutes of Health and other funding agencies are creating opportunities challenging this tradition, as are universities nationwide, including the University of Florida.

UF has an advantage in this effort, thanks to the remarkable diversity of programs and efforts on its full-service campus. Already, there are literally dozens of interdisciplinary research centers and programs here.

In science and engineering, these include the Genetics Institute, the Institute for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and the Engineering Research Center for Particle Science and Technology. In the natural sciences, they include the Center for Wetlands and the Center for Aquatic Plants. Others span the Public Utility Research Center to the Center for African Studies to the Center for Exercise Science.

What was once the exception is steadily becoming the rule. Perhaps the latest and best example is the Water Institute, a faculty-driven initiative that pulls

see Inter-disciplinarity, pg. 6

College in Focus: College of Law

College at a Glance

The following information is provided to increase our mutual understanding of each other's disciplines at the University of Florida. It is not intended to suggest a hierarchy among our colleges, but rather to reflect the intellectual and organizational diversity each college lends to the University.

Total number of faculty (Fall 2003)

- Full-time: 92
- Part-Time: 0
- Ranked State: 46.26
- Ranked 51.26

Number of faculty in tenure or tenure earning positions (Fall 2004)

Tenure:

Regular Faculty: 51
Librarians: 5

Tenure track:

Regular Faculty: 9
Librarians: 1

Percentage of faculty in tenure or tenure track positions:

76%

Number of degrees granted (2003-2004)

- Bachelor: 0
- Master: 87
- Doctorate: 0
- Professional: 408

Student credit hours generated annually (2003-2004)

- Lower: 0
- Upper: 0
- Grad I: 37,400
- Grad II: 22

Cost per student credit hour: (fundable units)

2,322 Total SCH majors
117 Total SCH non majors

Enrollment (Fall 2004)

- Undergraduate: 0
- Graduate: 106
- Professional: 1,158
- NonDegree: 9
- PostBacc: 0

Student/Teacher ratio:

Graduate: 15.9

Funded research expenditures:

- Sponsored Research \$47,770
- UF Research Foundation \$64,872
- Returned Overhead \$12,408

College development during the last year:

- Gifts: \$3,791,324
- Pledges: \$2,169,625

Significant national rankings:

- Law Schools Graduate:
AAU Public Rank: 15 (tie)
Overall US News Rank: 41 (tie)
- Law Trial Advocacy Graduate:
AAU Public Rank: 3
Overall US News Rank: 13
- Environmental Law Graduate:
AAU Public Rank: 6
Overall US News Rank: 17
- Tax Law Graduate:
AAU Public Rank: 1
Overall US News Rank: 2
- Taxation Undergraduate:
AAU Public Rank: 3
Overall US News Rank: 5

Fellows in major societies or equivalent honors:

- 12 Faculty members of the American Law Institute

College Narrative

by Danaya Wright, Faculty Senate Chair elect



Danaya Wright

The University of Florida, Levin College of Law was founded in 1909 and is fully accredited by the ABA and the AALS. The College of Law offers courses of study leading to the JD degree, LL.M.s in Comparative Law (primarily for foreign students with a law degree from their home country), Taxation, and International Taxation, and an SJD in Taxation. Our graduate tax program is routinely ranked either number one or number two in the country. In the regular JD program, the College grants certificates identifying specializations in Environmental and Land Use Law, Estates and Trusts

Practice, Family Law, Intellectual Property Law and International and Comparative Law. The College also works in conjunction with numerous Colleges and Departments to offer Joint J.D./M.A. and J.D./Ph.D. degrees.

The College of Law just completed a two-year construction and renovation project that involved the construction of two classroom towers on the east and west sides of the courtyard between Holland and Bruton Geer Halls. The entire first, second, and half of the third floors of Holland Hall were gutted and reconstructed to create new classrooms and a newly expanded library that is now the largest law library in the southeast. Through it all, classes continued to be taught, the library was moved to the abandoned Publix store on Archer Road, and the faculty and students endured noise, flooding, periodic power outages, network server vandalism, and the closure of our cafeteria with a reasonable amount of good cheer. Though the construction continues, the library is open and the building dedication ceremony is scheduled for September 9th. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is the guest of honor.

The College of Law has a strong history of shared governance. The dean proposes appointments to a wide variety of committees which are then voted upon by the full faculty. Tenure and promotion, hiring, and curriculum decisions, new program, grading policies and even recommendations about the choice of dean are made by vote of the entire College faculty after consideration in faculty committees. Nearly everything affecting faculty, from the new laptop policy to the student honor code, is voted on by the full faculty after close consideration in faculty committees. The College of Law is a collegial place with a strong sense of procedure and academic freedom. Law faculty often take positions for a semester or a year as a visitor at another law school and the general consensus from colleagues is that it is nice to return home.

Danaya Wright is an Associate Professor of Law and Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate

Laudamus

Over the past three years, faculty members published 68 books (including treatises and casebooks), contributed chapters or other material to another 63 books, and wrote 234 articles published in law reviews * including 13 articles in the nation's top 20 law reviews. Faculty work has been cited in courts at all levels thousands of times, including dozens of recent citations by federal courts and several by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The faculty also are doing their part to educate the public about legal issues. In the first seven months of 2005 alone, UF's faculty appeared in more than 150 different news reports in media outlets such as The New York Times, CNN, Newsweek and National Public Radio. These numbers tell only part of the story. From mediating international disputes to providing counsel for homeless people here in Gainesville, UF law faculty make an impact on a wide array of issues at all scales of human interaction.

To list just a few examples of our faculty's impact on both academia and public policy:



• Professor **Juan Francisco Perea's** casebook,

Race and Races: Cases and Resources for a Diverse America, broke new ground in legal scholarship by examining how the law affected and affects all major racial groups in the United States. The book has been

used at 48 law schools throughout the country. He has testified before the U.S. Senate as an opponent of Official English legislation and before the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding his proposals to remedy national origin discrimination.



• Professor **Christopher Slobogin's** work on search and seizure, mental health law, and juvenile law has been referenced in more than 1,000 law review articles and close to 100 judicial decisions. He was cited this year in the dissent

in *Roper v. Simmons*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning the juvenile death penalty.



- David H. Levin Professor **Barbara Bennett Woodhouse**, director of the Center on Children and Families, is one of the nation's foremost advocates for the legal rights of children. She has authored or co-authored amicus briefs in many high-profile court cases relating to children, including *Roper v.*

Simmons, in which the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the juvenile death penalty, and *Lofton v. Florida Department of Children and Families*, which challenged the state's ban on gay adoption.



- Assistant Professor **Christopher Peterson's** research is changing the way America views payday loans and other forms of "fringe" banking. His book, *Taming the Sharks: Toward a Cure for the High-Cost Credit Market*, has been honored by the American College of Financial Services Lawyers for sounding the alarm

about high-interest loans. Peterson was most recently featured on ABC News to discuss price gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



- In addition to his role as editor of the widely-used text *Powell on Real Property*, Richard E. Nelson Professor **Michael Allan Wolf** is often sought out by the news media for expert opinion on legal issues affecting public policy. In Summer 2005 alone, he delivered a commentary on the Supreme Court

nomination of John Roberts for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," penned an opinion piece on recent court rulings on the Ten Commandments for the Miami Herald, and was quoted in newspapers around the country on *Kelo v. New London*, the much-debated ruling on eminent domain.

- Professor **Katheryn Russell-Brown**, director of the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations,



speaks out on a topic of concern to tens of millions of Americans: racial stereotypes about crime. She has written two books on the subject *Underground Codes: Race, Crime and Related Fires*, and *The Color of Crime* and her work was cited by Justice Stevens in the 1995 *Harris v. Alabama* opinion.



- Ed Rood Eminent Scholar **Jerold Israel** is one of the nation's most respected authorities on criminal law and procedure, and his work has been cited more than 550 times in federal courts and 1,800 times by state courts. He is co-author of *Modern Criminal Procedure* — now in its 11th edition, a coursebook used by more than 100 law schools and an estimated 450,000-plus students over the years and *Criminal Procedure Treatise*, one of the most widely-cited texts on procedure.



- **Michael Gordon**, John H. and Mary Lou Dasburg Professor in Corporate Law, is widely recognized as a leading expert in international law. He has been appointed to North American Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization dispute panels, and served as a lecturer for the Council on Foreign Relations in the U.S. and for the State Department in more than a dozen countries.



- A member of the law school's respected Graduate Tax faculty, Professor **Patricia Dilley** is an important voice in the ongoing debate about the future of Social Security. Dilley, who served as a Congressional aide during the Social Security crisis of the early 1980s has traveled the country to appear in panel discussions on the issue, including recent conferences sponsored by Congresswoman Susan Davis (Calif.) and Congressman Jim Davis (Fla.).



• Assistant Professor **Mark Fenster** is building a body of respected scholarship on federal constitutional property protections and zoning and planning law. His most recent article, appearing in *California Law Review*, explores the effects of past U.S. Supreme Court decisions on conditional land use approvals by local governments in their dealings with property owners and developers.



• Legal Skills Professor **Joseph Jackson** is one of the many Levin College of Law faculty who devote significant amounts of time to pro bono work. In April 2005, Jackson was honored with The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for his work representing and advocating for homeless residents and service providers in Gainesville and Tampa in a variety of legal disputes.

Buzz from, pg. 1

ing campus-wide initiatives. It is also intended to bubble up the ideas and perspectives of members of the faculty, allowing us to share with each other and with the administration simultaneously.

The format is simple: **Buzz** will focus on topical issues. **People** will introduce faculty to colleagues with university-wide impact. **Interdisciplinarity** will highlight emerging or developed cross-college programs. **College in Focus** will highlight individual colleges through objective data, narrative and faculty accomplishments. Last but not least, **Faculty Senate News** will provide timely updates about the doings of UF's elected faculty representatives.

ACADEMICS is published by the Senate for the Faculty. Send me your comments at facultysenatechair@aa.ufl.edu.

Kim Tanzer is a Professor in the School of Architecture and Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Cabinet from, pg. 1

We have a lot to do. We want to grow our graduate programs, boost our research funding, hire great faculty, break ground for new buildings and nurture the kind of forward-thinking interdisciplinary research embodied by the new UF Water Institute. We've just launched a new marketing campaign and are about to launch a new capital campaign. We want to improve the quality of our academic programs, take the wraps off our achievements and rise in the rankings.

Big challenges all, but I'm confident our senior leaders are equal to them.

Bernie Machen is the President of the University of Florida

Inter-disciplinarity from, pg. 2

together UF's extensive water-related research and education efforts. The goal: To focus serious expertise on one of the state's most pressing problems.

At UF and elsewhere, the next challenge is to extend the interdisciplinary focus to education, specifically to degree programs.

Along those lines, UF has proposed creating a new doctoral program in interdisciplinary studies. The program would allow a student to blend two or more majors and design a plan of study not currently available on campus. For example, a student could earn a doctorate in bioinformatics – a degree not now offered at UF, despite the presence of the needed expertise in computer science, genetics and elsewhere. If approved by the Board of Governors, the program could be available as early as next school year.

From the essence of matter to the origin of life, answers to today's big questions in science and scholarship no longer come from a single discipline. UF's researchers are focusing strong attention where many of the answers will lie: at the boundaries.

Win Phillips is Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Research Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Vice President for Research

Faculty Senate News: 4.14.05 • Meeting Outcomes

Danaya Wright is the new chair-elect.

Name Change

Graduate Engineering Research Center at Eglin Air Force Base (GERC) to Research and Engineering Education Facility (REEF).

Presented by Sheila Dickison, Chair, Curriculum Committee Approved unanimously.

New Degree Proposal

Master of Science with a Major in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology and Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Presented by Ken Gerhardt, VP Research and Graduate Programs
Both Approved unanimously.

New Degree Proposal

Master of International Taxation

Presented by Ken Gerhardt, VP Research and Graduate Programs
Both Approved unanimously.

Proposed Constitutional Language

Article II Section-5 APA Assembly

Presented by Chris Snodgrass, Chair, Constitution Committee

Two options to consider for proposed constitutional language regarding the definition of the Academic and Professional Assembly (APA)

- Option 1 [New] Section 5: ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY: The Academic and Professional Assembly (APA) shall be the organizational representative of the University's academic and professional staff not represented in the Faculty Senate. The APA shall have the authority to define its membership, to approve its own bylaws, to appoint committees and other groups as are deemed necessary to aid in the performance of its mission, and to serve in an advisory capacity to the President and the Faculty Senate.

Motion to approve this recommendation was approved unanimously.

UF Libraries Approval of Statement

Presented by Scott Nygren, Chair of the Council of Academic Infrastructure and Support

"The Faculty Senate recognizes that library resources and services are crucial to our academic mission. However, our libraries have been documented as deficient when compared to top ten universities with which the University of Florida aims to compete. Therefore, the Faculty Senate asks the Administration and the Board of Trustees to formulate a policy to improve university libraries to meet the diverse and complex needs of 21st century teaching and research, and to report back within one year regarding resources and strategies to enable the libraries to achieve this goal."

Motion to pass statement passed unanimously

UF Calendars

2005 Commencement Ceremonies

Presented by Sheila Dickison, Chair, Curriculum Committee

Revise the academic calendar for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 to address concerns about commencement ceremonies and final exams on the Friday of exam week.

Motion was defeated.

Constitution Committee

Rules Report

Presented by Chris Snodgrass, Chair, Constitution Committee

Dr. Snodgrass reported on the recent proposed university rules. All rules that were not previously withdrawn were approved by the Board of Trustees.

Nominating Committee Report

Presented by Carol Kem, Chair, Nominating Committee

Dr. Kem gave annual report of the committee and provided a list of candidates for the Senate committees and joint committees. Electronic ballot voting ended April 29, 2005.

Faculty Senate News:

Senate Agenda

September 22, 2005 • 3:00 -5:00 P.M.

Reitz Union Auditorium

Agenda:

Approval of April 14, 2005 and August 25, 2005 minutes Kim Tanzer, *Chair*

Reports:

- **Chair's Report** Kim Tanzer, *Chair*
- **Provost's Report** Janie Fouke, *Provost*

Information Items:

- **Conversations About...Series:**

University Budget Dr. King, *Associate Provost for Faculty Development*

- **Curriculum Changes** Sheila Dickison, *University Curriculum Committee*

New Degrees

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) *College of Nursing*

Name Changes

- Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathology

from Department of Pathobiology *College of Veterinary Medicine*

- Department of Educational Administration and Policy

from Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and

Foundations *College of Education*

- M.S. major in Real Estate

from M.S. major in Business Administration,

concentration in Real Estate and Urban Analysis *College of Business*

New Department

Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science *College of Dentistry*

New Major

Migration of Landscape and Nursery Horticulture

to a major from Interdisciplinary studies specialization,

IDS: Landscape and Nursery Horticulture *College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*

- **Changes to General Ed Requirements** Andy McCullough, *Gen Ed Council*

International/Diversity Focus

Minimum Grade Requirement for General Education Courses

- **Nominations** Carol Kem, *Senate Nominating Committee*

Call for Nominations from the floor for Policy Councils

Action Items:

- **None**

Open Discussion from Floor of Senate:

- **Three minute limit per speaker, floor will be open to Senators first**