

## Vet student develops computer-based study tool in a flash

At 33, junior veterinary student Mary Gardner is fast becoming an entrepreneur, marketing a computer-driven flash card study program to students not just at the University of Florida, but all over the world.

Gardner, with help from her computer programmer father and webmaster brother, developed PC FlashCards, a software package that enables students to create flash cards on their personal computers. Students can organize the cards by subject, attach pictures, test themselves, print out cards on paper and swap cards between friends.

For example, animal science majors might quiz themselves with cards that ask questions like "What is a nutrient?" or "What type of cattle is this?"

"If you have a PDA, you can put the cards on the PDA version of the software to study away from your PC," Gardner said.

Nearly the entire sophomore veterinary class has purchased the program, which sells for \$29.95. One of PC FlashCards' key selling points is that a portion of the proceeds from each sale goes to a student club, class

or organization the buyer designates.

"My class has earned more than \$500 just from sales," Gardner said. "It's been our best fundraising event to date. There is no overhead and no inventory, and we've learned while we made the cards."

The flash card business began before Gardner was able to apply for veterinary school, when she was completing prerequisites and studying a lot. "I was making handwritten flash cards, and I'd have stacks of them in my house. I thought, this is ridiculous, there needs to be a software product to automate all this."

So Gardner drew up specs, conceptualized the product and asked her father to help write the software. Within a week, he had a prototype. Her brother agreed to build a Web site, so soon all three family members were involved.

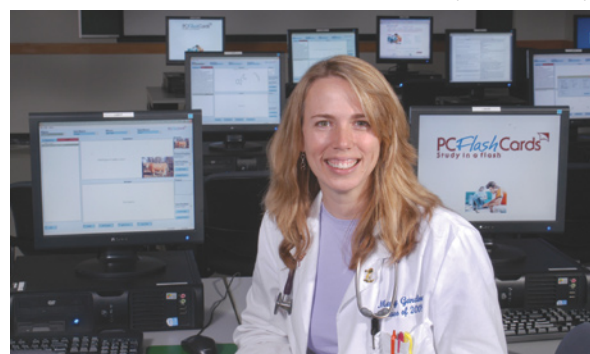
Students from six other veterinary schools, including those in Hawaii, Puerto Rico

and Canada, are now using the program.

"The program is not just for college students," Gardner said. "We have real estate agents, pilots and high school students using the program. It's a great feeling to know that so many other people have found the product helpful in their studies."

For more information on PC FlashCards, go to [www.pcfashcards.com](http://www.pcfashcards.com).

By Sarah Carey



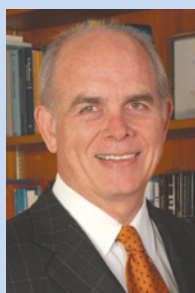
Junior veterinary student Mary Gardner has developed a new twist in study aids: a flash card program that works on a computer.

Ray Carson

## Bernie's Blog

### Campus connections

It is my pleasure to introduce Inside UF, your new campus news source.



Inside UF will feature the latest news about people, places and events from all over the UF community. It also will publish columns by UF administrative, student and faculty leaders, as well as guest columns by a wide variety of contributors. It will appear Tuesdays in The Independent Florida Alligator as a two-page centerpiece.

Care to know who won that award? Check Inside UF. Curious about that exhibit you heard about? You know where to look. Want to read the latest information about UF benefits? It's here.

There are so many talented people doing so many extraordinary things at UF that it's easy to forget we share a common experience. Inside UF aims to bring that experience to the forefront. We made the decision to launch the publication after people from around the university repeatedly mentioned the need for an internally produced news outlet in focus groups tied to our Gator Nation marketing campaign.

In this first edition, you'll find a story on UF's upward climb in national college rankings, guidelines on preparing for hurricanes, awards announcements and a calendar of events. Just as classes get under way, there's also an interesting profile of a student who developed a novel flash-card studying program for her computer.

In this very large, very busy university, it can be hard to break out of our own little worlds of workplace and colleagues. We're all better off when we see the big picture and tap into the amazing variety of programs and activities that UF has to offer.

By connecting the corners of our campus, Inside UF will help us do just that.

*J. Bernard Machen*

J. Bernard Machen  
President

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# UF makes gains in national rankings surveys

In its bid to achieve Top 10 recognition among public universities, the University of Florida has pushed into the No. 13 spot in the U.S. News & World Report 2007 rankings. The standing elevates the university three spots from last year in the annual national survey.

Overall, among both public and private universities, UF also climbed three places to No. 47, tying with four other schools.

UF undergraduate programs in engineering and business also rated high in the survey among both public and private universities. The College of Engineering moved up one spot from last year to share the No. 30 position with Harvard University, Ohio State University and University

of Pennsylvania. The Warrington College of Business was ranked No. 29, tying with five other schools, including the University of Georgia and Texas A&M University.

While President Bernie Machen is pleased with the improvement, he is cautious about what the rankings represent.

"It's certainly good to be recognized, but at the same time we have to keep improving the most important parts of our mission — namely providing a solid education and doing outstanding research," Machen said.

The four other schools sharing UF's placements are Pennsylvania State University-University Park; University of California-Davis; University of California-Santa Barbara; and University of Texas-Austin.

### How UF rates

More information on the U.S. News & World Report and other surveys is available online:

- U.S. News & World Report, [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)
- The Center, <http://thecenter.ufl.edu/>
- Washington Monthly, [www.washingtonmonthly.com](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com)
- The Scientist, "Best Places to Work," [www.the-scientist.com](http://www.the-scientist.com)
- Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, [www.hispanicoutlook.com](http://www.hispanicoutlook.com)

## Minority graduate degrees put UF in top tier

A national magazine has ranked the University of Florida No. 9 out of 98 U.S. colleges and universities in the number of minorities graduating with doctoral degrees.

Surveys by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine used the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Education to rank the top 100 minority graduate degree producing U.S. institutions in the categories of master's, doctoral and first professional degrees awarded.

UF also placed ninth out of 43 institutions for total minority doctorates conferred in the health sciences and tied for No. 1 out of the 13 institutions ranked for Hispanic doctoral degrees.

Out of 93 institutions, UF tied for the No. 3 spot for the number of doctorates awarded to Hispanic students for all disciplines combined and tied for No. 13 for doctorates awarded to black students.

In individual college rankings, UF's College of Engineering tied for the No. 8 producer of total minority doctoral degrees out of 43 institutions.

UF's College of Dentistry was the No. 3 producer out of 22 institutions of Hispanic dentistry first professionals. The college also was ranked No. 15 out of 48 for overall minority dental first professionals, 12th out of 16 for black students dental first professionals and 23rd out of 43 for Asian students.

UF's College of Law ranked 21st out of 50 institutions in total minority first professionals. It also was No. 8 in Hispanic student first professionals and No. 22 in black student first professionals.

For more information on UF's minority graduate and doctoral degree rankings, visit [www.diverseeducation.com](http://www.diverseeducation.com).

By Cathy Keen



Kristen Bartlett

## UF refreshes identity

Rick Mitchell, maintenance mechanic with the University of Florida's Physical Plant, brushes dust from a newly installed sign at the corner of 13th Street and Union Road. The sign is the first of many across campus to display the new UF signature, which was rolled out in July as part of the university's campuswide campaign to improve consistency in visual communications. "The new UF signature represents the evolution of the previous seal and wordmark while providing a bold new direction for the university," said Joe Hice, associate vice president for marketing and public relations.

## Happenings

Following is a sampling of upcoming major happenings at the University of Florida. For other calendar listings, visit the Web at [calendar@ufl.edu](mailto:calendar@ufl.edu).

**Today**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Student Government Open House, Reitz Student Union Room 305

**Sept. 8**  
3 p.m., Talk titled "Gynecological Surgery and Public Controversy" by Regina Morantz-Sanchez, professor of history, University of Michigan, MSB Auditorium

**Sept. 9**  
1 p.m., UF School of Music organ recital, University Auditorium

**Sept. 10**  
2 p.m., Talk titled "Bread Givers" by Anzia Yezierska, as part of the Let's Talk About It reading and discussion series, Hillel Library

**Sept. 25-26**  
Benefits Fair offering information about available benefits programs and options to UF faculty and staff, Reitz Student Union Grand Ballroom

**Florida Museum of Natural History**  
"Biodiversity: A Biologist's Perspective" exhibit featuring scientific illustrations by

## Seen & Heard

### UF tops \$500 million in sponsored research

The University of Florida received a record \$518.8 million in research funding in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2006, up 5 percent from \$494 million in 2005.

The jump mainly comes from a \$13.4 million increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health. Overall, federal funding rose to \$324.4 million. Other major federal sponsors include the National Science Foundation, \$39.6 million; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, \$33.3 million; and the Department of Defense, \$23.1 million.

### UF to have key role in Burnham Institute

Orlando will be the Florida site of the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, according to an announcement last week in Tallahassee. The announcement stems from several months of work to bring Burnham to the state, with the University of Florida playing a key role in the process.

Though many of the details remain to be worked out, UF officials said the collaboration is expected to include the construction of a UF research facility on the property that Burnham will also occupy. The building likely will be about 50,000 square feet.

UF botany doctoral student Camila Pizano on display through Dec. 10.

### Galleries

"O'Henri" exhibit featuring art in a range of media on display through Sept. 15 at Focus Gallery.  
"Dressed and Adorned: The Art of Costume" exhibit featuring a selection of costumes on display through Nov. 3 at Grinter Gallery.

### Harn Museum of Art

Temporary exhibits "Spinach Green and Mutton-fat White: Chinese Jades of the Qing Dynasty" and "Resonance and Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo" on display beginning Sept. 5.

Some researchers also will receive joint appointments at UF and Burnham.

### Agroforestry expert given Humboldt Research Award

P.K. Nair, a distinguished professor of agroforestry with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, recently received the Humboldt Research Award presented by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

The award includes a stipend of about \$60,000 for future research and an invitation to collaborate with German researchers. Nair will work with colleagues in developing agroforestry projects to address environmental issues such as water quality enhancement and carbon sequestration.

### Entrepreneurial scholar award goes to UF staff member

Marilyn J. Velez, senior auditor, Department of Audit Compliance and Review, has been named this year's Thomas S. Johnson Entrepreneurial Scholar by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Velez achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA in all aca-

demical coursework in the entrepreneurship master's program.

### Safety shower earns UF staffer State honor

Shane Rigdon, plumber, Water Department, recently received a Davis Productivity Distinguished Individual Award for building a portable and collapsible safety shower testing unit that allows preventive maintenance to be done by one person instead of two. Rigdon's invention has saved UF close to \$25,000 a year in preventive maintenance work hours. The statewide Davis Productivity Awards honor individuals and work units for innovation, creativity and smart work that measurably increase performance and productivity in the delivery of state services and products.

### Harn Museum to reopen in September

After three months of renovations to include fresh paint, new carpet and refinished stone floors, the original Harn Museum of Art is scheduled to reopen on Sept. 5. In addition to the permanent collections, two temporary exhibits that originated at the Harn also will be on display for the reopening — Spinach Green and Mutton-fat White: Chinese Jades of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and Resonance and Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo.

### Phillips Center

**Sept. 12**  
One-man show, "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy," 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 15**  
Miami City Ballet, 7:30 p.m.

**The O'Connell Center**

**Aug. 30**  
Gatorfest, annual pep rally and concert, welcomes new and returning students to UF, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 12**  
The Rev. Al Sharpton kicks off ACCENT Speakers Bureau series, 8 p.m.

### Oct. 10-11

"Sesame Street Live: Super Grover! Ready for Action!" performs three shows: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Oct. 10; and 7 p.m., Oct. 11.

### Academic Calendar

**Sept. 1**  
3:30 p.m., Fall fee payments deadline, Financial Services

**Sept. 4**  
Labor Day holiday — no classes

**Sept. 15**  
Fall degree applications due, Office of University Registrar

## UF urges readiness during hurricane season

With the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season under way, the University of Florida stands ready to put its emergency preparedness plan into action should the need arise. Here are a few of the more important things to keep in mind if a major storm threatens our area:

- The primary source of information regarding class cancellations, campus closings, evacuations, shelter openings and work schedules is the UF home page — [www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu).
- Pertinent information will be relayed to the news media, including UF's three radio stations, WRUF-AM, WRUF-FM and WUFT-FM, as well as the campus TV station, WUFT Channel 5.
- Announcements also will be sent to students, faculty and staff via e-mail.
- The university will activate its rumor control telephone line. The number will be posted on the home page and relayed to local news media when the need arises.
- In the event of a power outage, have a battery-powered radio handy and be prepared to tune into campus radio stations, which also will simulcast WCJB TV-20 newscasts when appropriate.
- UF's two designated shelters are at the Reitz Student Union and the Southwest Recreation Center on Hull Road. Shelter openings will be posted on UF's home page, though the two shelters may not necessarily be opened simultaneously. In most cases, students living on campus who choose to stay in Gainesville may remain in their residence halls.
- Students who do choose to remain during a storm should have certain supplies on hand. Students living on campus should go to [http://www.housing.ufl.edu/RA\\_HD%20Manual/manualPDFs/Hurricane.pdf](http://www.housing.ufl.edu/RA_HD%20Manual/manualPDFs/Hurricane.pdf). Students living off-campus should go to <http://www.floridadisaster.org/bpr/ResponsePlans/Nathaz/Brochure/supplykit.htm>.
- For even more detailed information on how to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane, a 17-minute video is posted at <http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/disasterplan/#General>. A Windows Media version is available at <http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/disasterplan/HurricanePrep/WM.htm>, and a Flash format version is available at <http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/disasterplan/HurricanePrep/Flash.htm>.