

UF Voices

Budget woes loom in new year

The budget news across the state is not good and could potentially become worse in coming months.

We took a \$22 million reduction last fall and implemented other initiatives such as a hiring freeze to help offset the state's revenue shortfall.

We also created a campus Task Force on Cost Reduction and Efficiency, which has recommended several initiatives: a new transcript charge, consolidation of print vendors, transitioning print publications to electronic publications, a comprehensive motor vehicle management plan, and the recently announced direct deposit/ debit card plan. Implementation of these initiatives will continue to be part of our overall strategy.

Additionally, we expect the Legislature to reduce our appropriations by another \$16 million this fiscal year. The governor actually has withheld this amount from the semi-monthly payment of appropriations to the university. Taken together and calculated on an annualized basis, this represents more than a \$47 million reduction from fiscal year 2007.

We will use several one-time funds to address the \$16 million reduction for the remainder of this fiscal year to limit the impact on departments. For this reason, we will not ask colleges and other units to make more cuts this fiscal year.

Even so, we expect another round of appropriation reductions beginning July 1.

At this point, I have asked each vice president and dean to prepare a plan to reduce their FY09 state-funded budget by at least 6 percent. I do not anticipate across-the-board reductions. Rather, each unit needs to develop a reduction plan that could support both programmatic and general reductions.

As we move through the legislative session, we will gain a better understanding of the full impact to the campus. But we must prepare now.

This continues to be a very difficult time for our entire community and I appreciate your ongoing teamwork and collaboration.

For more information, please see <http://www.president.ufl.edu/budget-reduction>.

J. Bernard Machen
President



J. Bernard Machen

Top Stories

New steak is a cut above many others

Next time you cut into a juicy steak, think about this: Thanks to a new preparation developed by a UF researcher, a cut of meat that was once used mainly for ground beef now can be served as a tasty and tender "top blade" steak.

Dwain Johnson, a professor of meat science with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences helped co-develop the new cut along with the University of Nebraska and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The steak has steadily risen in popularity since it was first introduced, and is now selling more than 90 million pounds per year, said Johnson. This makes it the fifth best-selling steak in the country, putting it in the company of more traditional cuts.

Like a hybrid of those traditional cuts, the top blade steak has the tenderness of a strip steak combined with the flavor and lean character of a sirloin.

While it maintains the flavor and tenderness of more expensive cuts, the top blade steak has the major benefit of costing much less, since it is cut from what was traditionally considered to be a less-desirable portion of meat, said Johnson.

According to Johnson, the most difficult obstacle to this cut becoming a great steak was removing a flaw in the middle. There is a piece of connective tissue running through the center of the cut which is very tough, but once Johnson and his fellow researchers discovered a way to cut around the tissue, the steak was born.

The steak has found its way onto the menus of a number of restaurants. TGI Friday's has been serving the cut since September 2004, said Scott Randolph, senior

director of culinary, T.G.I. Friday's.

"TGI Friday's was the first casual dining chain to offer this cut of meat," said Randolph. "Since the T.G.I. Friday's rollout, the steak has become a mainstay on casual dining menus and is widely available in retail meat counters nationwide."

The steak often is referred to as the top blade, but TGI Fridays, among others, refers to the cut as a flat iron steak, Randolph said. Friday's menu further describes the steak as "an unbelievably tender flavorful steak...aged and hand-cut especially for Friday's."

The flat iron is listed on Friday's Steakhouse Selects menu page, as well as the Jack Daniel's Grill Entrees page.



Friday's flat iron steak entree

The steak is uniform in thickness and rectangular in shape. Many people think the steak looks like an old-fashioned metal flat iron, Johnson said.

By Alex Stern

Cultural Diplomacy forum to be presented on March 3

To help celebrate the opening of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, the Center for the Arts and Public Policy will present a "Cultural Diplomacy" forum at 7:30



Joseph Nye

p.m. on March 3 at The Ocora, Pugh Hall. Joseph S. Nye Jr. will be the featured speaker. A reception will follow.

Nye currently is the Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations at

the John F. Kennedy School of Government and Distinguished Professor at Harvard University. His prior appointments include Deputy to the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

Free tickets are available through the Reitz Union Box Office. For more information, contact Donald McGlothlin, director of the Center for the Arts and Public Policy, mcgloth@ufl.edu or phone 352-846-3425.

In Focus

Student's Pet project benefits UF animal shelter

Bob Barker has nothing on this University of Florida student.

Allison Montague, veterinary medicine senior, has started a fashion revolution that could end the reign of fur forever.

With witty slogans like, "Cats can't add, but they're great at multiplying," Montague's retro-chic clothing line features \$15 T-shirts for men and women that promote the spaying and neutering of household pets.

"Spaying and neutering eliminates or reduces a number of health problems," Montague explained. "Also, unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered."

The former advertising account executive started the company two years ago with the help of her mother and brother to promote pet health and combat overpopulation of animal shelters. Shelters in the United States take in 6-8 million dogs and cats annually, roughly half of which are euthanized, The Humane Society of the United States reports.



Allison Montague

"AWEARness seeks to raise awareness of the rising number of innocent animals that are being euthanized every week just because they're homeless," Montague said. "Shelters need help and funding, and this is just a small way to give back to the animals

that bring us so much joy."

When she learned that the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's shelter program was threatened by budget cuts, Montague took her company a step further and announced that she would donate all her profits to the program. The shelter program helps animals and UF students by allowing the students to gain experience by spaying and neutering local shelter animals. AWEARness has donated about \$100 to the program so far, but Montague has faith that she will continue to sell T-shirts, some of which have been purchased from as far away as Ohio.

The clothing is sold through www.aWEARness-clothing.com, a Web site designed by Montague and classmate Crystal Hmielewski. The company recently expanded from T-shirts to include "boy-shorts" underwear, which Montague calls "underWEARness."

"Girls like underwear with expressions on them, so why not 'aWEARness!'" she said.

By Kimberly Cruts

Seen & Heard

First online Ph.D. awarded

The University of Florida has awarded the nation's first Ph.D. in classical studies pursued online. David McClister of Tampa successfully defended his dissertation on Feb. 11, and is set to graduate during the May commencement ceremony.



David McClister

The classical studies distance learning graduate program was established at UF in 2001 to address the needs of Latin teachers nationwide. It is the only program of its kind in the nation and is the only online Ph.D. offered at the university.

Community Campaign announces increase

Employees gave \$1,167,446 in support of this year's UF Community Campaign. This was a significant increase compared to last year's amount of \$1,090,322.

"Many UF employees gave to the campaign through payroll deduction, and others gave through their involvement in silent auctions, bake sales and even a golf tournament... In a year like this, when there were no state-funded raises, it is a

true testimony to the generosity and altruism of University of Florida employees," Dean Steve Dorman, chairman of the UF Community Campaign, said.

Associate dean earns award

Elaine Turner, an associate dean with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, was recently honored by her undergraduate alma mater, Kansas State University, with its Distinguished Service Award.

Turner, who earned a bachelor of science degree in dietetics from Kansas State in 1982, received the award at a College of Human Ecology celebration in Manhattan, Kan.

Veterinarian becomes first female president

Eleanor Green recently was installed as the 54th president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. She is the first female to serve in this role, and she will serve through 2008.

Green currently is a professor and chair of the department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, as well as chief of staff of the Large Animal Veterinary Center, at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), headquartered in Lexington, Ky., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of horses.

Common Reading book unveiled

The 2008-09 Common Reading book selection is "When Rivers Run Dry: Water - The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century" by Fred Pearce. For more information, please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/nsp/firstyearexperience/commonread/>

Historian named new director

Author and oral historian Paul Ortiz was named director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. He replaces retired history professor Julian Pleasants.



Paul Ortiz

Since 2001, Ortiz has been an associate professor in the department of Community Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. His most recent book, "Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920," received the 2006 Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Book Prize from the Florida Historical Society and the Florida Institute of Technology.

Note This

University awards deadline is March 1

During commencement ceremonies, the University of Florida honors individuals who have received a university-designated award, including honorary degrees, distinguished alumnus awards, distinguished achievement awards, and distinguished service awards. The university invites faculty and staff to identify and nominate individuals who, through their accomplishments and service, are deserving of the university's highest honors.

The nomination package includes the nominee's curriculum vitae and other background information, along with three or more letters of recommendation. The nomination package is due March 1 and must be mailed to the committee in care of Robin Frey, PO Box 113150. For more information, contact Robin Frey, rfrey@ufl.edu, 352-392-3117.

Memorial award deadline is March 7

The Gareth Kerr Memorial Award was created by the Student Health Care Center in memory of University of Florida student, Gareth Kerr, who passed away in April 2006. Kerr's contributions to Student Health were significant and he gave quietly and unselfishly of his time, energy and vision to ensure that quality health services were accessible to all UF students.

The award was created to honor students who continue Kerr's legacy.

The deadline for nominations and letters of recommendation is March 7. For more information, visit www.hcc.ufl.edu or contact Lica Gilley, 352-392-1161 ext 1-4220.

Environmental conference to be held at UF

The University of Florida Levin College of Law's 14th Annual Public Interest Environmental Conference (PIEC) will be held Feb. 28 to March 1 at the UF Law campus. The theme of this year's conference is "Reducing Florida's Footprint: Stepping Up to the Global Challenge." The conference will focus on Florida's role in global issues related to energy, land use, biodiversity and water. The PIEC will take place in conjunction with the 1st Annual University of Florida Water Symposium - "Sustainable Water Resources: Florida Challenges, Global Solutions."

The conference is free for all UF students, faculty and staff. For more information, contact the event co-chairs Andrew Beckington, abeck82@ufl.edu, or Yee Huang, lyh@ufl.edu.

Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida, compiled from entries listed in the full calendar that appears on the Web at calendar.ufl.edu. To submit an event online, visit <http://calendar.ufl.edu/submit/>.

Feb. 26
UF Choral Department presents "Music for the Anglophile." University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. Call 352-392-0207 for more information.

Feb. 28
College of Fine Arts presents University of Florida Concert Bands Concert. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. Call 352-392-1653 or Ticketmaster for ticket information.

Feb. 29
College of Fine Arts presents University of Florida Jazz Band Concert with Guest Artist.

University Auditorium, 7:30 PM. Open to the public. Call 352-392-1653 or Ticketmaster for ticket information.

March 1
UFPA presents World Premiere Collaboration—Jennifer Larmore with Apollo's Fire. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$20-\$30. Visit the Phillips Center Box Office or call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.



March 2
UFPA presents "Quatuor Parisii." University Auditorium, 5 p.m. Reserved seating \$15-\$25. Visit the Phillips Center Box Office or call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.

March 7
Spring Break Begins

March 11
University Relations/Community Relations presents Community Campus Council Breakfast Meetings. UF Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, 7:30 a.m. Open to the public. Call 352-392-4567 for more information.

March 13
Spring Break Ends

March 15
UFPA presents Sweet Honey in the Rock. Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$15-\$30. Visit the Phillips Center Box Office or call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.

Recurring Events

Feb. 22-March 2
College of Fine Arts presents DANCE 2008. Constans Theatre. Open to the public. Call 352-392-0207 for more information.

March 3-4
UFPA presents "Movin' Out." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating \$40-\$60. Visit the Phillips Center Box Office or call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for tickets.

