

UF Voices

A season for gratitude

Each day we are fortunate to wake up and go to work for one of the largest, most-respected public universities in the country – filled with students who infuse this campus with their energy and optimism. And as our friends up north will soon be reminding us, you cannot beat the weather. What a wonderful place to call “work”!



Paula Varnes Fussell

UF is grateful for you, too, and seeks to demonstrate that gratitude through the variety of benefits it offers its employees. Beyond its outstanding health and retirement plans, the university offers a range of programs to improve your life and well-being.

This year, as you make your New Year's resolutions, keep in mind the health-related programs offered through Living Well, Healthy Gators 2010 and the Employee Assistance Program. Broaden your horizons by signing up for a training program, taking a college course through the Employee Education Program or by visiting the UF library.

I hope you will join me this holiday season in pausing for a moment of gratitude for the abundance that surrounds us.

Paula Varnes Fussell
Vice President for Human Resource Services

Create holiday cards for pediatric patients

The annual Hearts for the Holidays program, presented by Friends for Life of America, will provide an opportunity for University of Florida students, faculty and staff to make holiday cards for pediatric cancer patients. Card-making stations will be located at Turlington Plaza and the Reitz Student Union Colonnade from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 1-4.

Friends for Life is a student-run non-profit organization that seeks to provide educational, emotional and financial support to pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Bernadette Guzman, UF senior and president of the club, said she hopes Hearts for the Holidays will collect at least 2,500 cards to be sent to at least one hospital in each state. Friends for Life will provide materials, including stickers, glitter, paint, paper, stencils, markers and more.

Guzman has been involved in the club since her freshman year. “Although our club is small and intimate, I think we make a huge difference in the lives of cancer patients,” she said.

Carillon plays 30 years of campus music

The University of Florida carillon is nestled atop perhaps one of the most iconic sites on campus, Century Tower. The carillon's bells and chimes resonate throughout campus when played by live performers at 12:35 p.m. each weekday, and by an automated system at each quarter hour.

In its 30 years at UF, the carillon has transitioned from the center of controversy to a cherished campus icon.

At the carillon's dedication in 1979, numerous protesters disputed the use of student funds for the instrument. Hand-held signs read “Education, Not Decoration,” as the students marched near Century Tower.

The sound of the carillon is now an integral part of campus life. It is as much an icon as the tower that houses it.

Dani Gretz, sophomore biology major, is a member of the carillon studio, which consists of eight students who play the afternoon programs. She said the studio plays each day so the campus community can be involved and listen to the carillon.

“The carillon and its music is an icon of UF's campus because it is a big part of UF's history,” Gretz said.

A carillon is a European instrument with a minimum of 23 bells and at least two octaves. UF's carillon consists of 61 bells and five octaves, and is among the largest university carillons in North America. It is played on a keyboard from the tower's 11th story in a small, dimly lit room just below the bell chamber.

After Thanksgiving break, listen for holiday carols ringing from the tower as Laura Ellis, associate professor of music, or a member of the carillon studio plays the 12:35 p.m. program each weekday.

A member of the studio will play holiday music prior to the UF College of Fine Arts School of Music's annual Sounds of the Seasons program on Dec. 6. The carillon recital at 3 p.m. on Dec. 13 also will include holiday melodies.

Ellis said, “There are not that many universities that have carillons. I think that in itself makes UF stand within a unique crowd.”

Read more of this story at www.insideuf.ufl.edu



Courtney Blethen

Did you KNOW?

UF's Century Tower is 157-feet tall.

Jill Mendoza (left) and Dani Gretz play a duet on the carillon. The keyboard wires pull on clappers, striking the bells just above the performers.

Fact

Alumnus Steven Cohen founded Friends for Life of America in 1997.

UF Calendar

Nov. 25

UFPA presents **Yamato, The Drummers of Japan** at 7:30 p.m. in the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Nov. 30

The O'Connell Center presents **Daughtry** featuring **Theory of a Deadman** and **Cavo**, 7:30 p.m. in the O'Connell Center. Admission fee required.

Dec. 9

Fall classes end.

Dec. 10

Poinsettia Open House and Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the IFAS greenhouses off Hull Road.

Jan. 5, 2010

Spring classes begin.

Recurring Event

Florida Museum Exhibit: **Butterflies and Moths in Contemporary Zuni Art**, on display through Jan. 3, 2010. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

This is a sampling of events from the electronic UF calendar. For more event details, or to submit an event to the calendar, click “UF Calendar” at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.

Note This

Spring-break travel offered

Florida Alternative Breaks (FAB) is looking for student participants for its spring break trips. FAB offers week-long trips of community service. For more information, visit <http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/studentorgs/fab/>.

View, buy poinsettias

Both traditional and unique varieties of poinsettias will be at the 2009 University of Florida/IFAS Poinsettia Open House and Sale.

The annual event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the IFAS greenhouses. The greenhouses are located off Hull Road on the west side of campus.

Event admission is free. The price of red-variety plants is \$9; white and pink varieties cost \$12. For more information, e-mail kara3415@ufl.edu or smdevos@ufl.edu.

