



RFUF

RETIRED FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INC.
P.O. Box 15544 / Gainesville, Florida 32604

RFUF Newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 2, November 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2002 - 2003

MADELYN M. LOCKHART

PRESIDENT

EDWARD PETKUS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

JAMES R. SAUCERMAN

SECRETARY

JOHN K. MAHON

TREASURER

GEORGE K. DAVIS

PAST PRESIDENT

SEYMOUR S. BLOCK

LARRY CONNOR

JAMES W. HENSEL

ROBERT RAMEY

VIRGINIA STROZIER

TZU L. YUAN

DONALD A. HEMPSON

MEMBERSHIP

CECIL N. SMITH

ECONOMICS BENEFITS COMM.

WILLIAM DRUMMOND

AUDITING COMMITTEE

.....
• **Spring Luncheon** •
• is scheduled for •
• 11:30 a.m. on •
• Wednesday, April 2, •
• at the Gainesville •
• Sheraton. Reserva- •
• tion form is on p. 8. •
.....

President's Remarks

Now that we have all had a break for the holidays, it is time to start the new year; ready to join our colleagues for an interesting program of winter and spring meetings. As you meet other retirees elsewhere, ask them to come to our meetings and join the Retired Faculty of U.F. As the university plans for the future, our organization that represents decades of teaching, research and service that made the University of Florida an AAU university should participate by making our voices heard. We will try to do that in our future meetings.

We all enjoyed our visit to Emerson Alumni Hall in October and I would like to have suggestions of any ways we might be able to use the Retired Faculty Room. Our fall program had an interesting variety of topics, from the sciences to the arts, from politics to sports, from handling finances to making end of life choices. If those topics didn't cover everything of interest to you, check page 2 for the winter and spring programs that Ed Petkus, our President Elect has arranged.

Thanks to all of you for your help in securing the approval of Amendment 11 to the Florida Constitution which will establish a state-wide board to coordinate the universities in the Florida State System. The universities will now be less burdened by parochial legislative actions in funding and other academic decisions. The University of Florida can move ahead with strategic planning, correct some past mistakes and look to the future. A search for a president will be able to attract candidates with solid academic and administrative credentials. We are all grateful to President Charles Young for his superior efforts and his success in "holding down the fort" while the statewide university governance in Florida was in "limbo."

Our thoughts and condolences go out to our Treasurer, John Mahon on the loss of his wife, his partner for 54 years.

Many of our members have enjoyed a 1/2 hour with friends before the meetings. Bob Ramey has perked the coffee and chilled the orange juice and Ed Petkus has put out the doughnuts. We thank them as well as Bill Drummond, Tzu Yuan, and Virginia Strozier for offering to help. So please join us for a visit with old friends and then enjoy the meeting and discussion. See you on Wednesday, January 8.

Madelyn Lockhart

Retired Faculty University of Florida
Programs: Spring 2003

- Wednesday, January 8** DR. ERICH FARBER Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus
Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Florida
“Solar Energy”
- Wednesday, January 15** DR. REBECCA M. NAGY Director
Harn Museum of Art
“Pageantry, Piety and Politics in the Art of Ethiopia”
- Wednesday, January 22** DR. SEYMOUR BLOCK Professor Emeritus
Department of Chemistry, University of Florida
“The Hypnotist”
- Wednesday, January 29** DR. JOSEPH DELFINO Professor
Department of Environmental Engineering, University of Florida
“Florida’s Water”
- Wednesday, February 5** MR. STEVE OPDYKE Author, *Willie Nelson Sings America*
“Elvis: The Making of a Book”
- Wednesday, February 12** DR. LEIGHTON CLUFF Professor Emeritus
College of Medicine, University of Florida
“Perspectives in Medicine”
- Wednesday, February 19** PROF. JERRY UELSMANN Graduate Research Professor
College of Fine Arts, University of Florida
“Photography: A Personal Evolution”
- Wednesday, February 26** MS. PAM MEISTER Former World Champion Power Lifter
“Intrepid: The Story of a Woman’s Journey to a World Championship and Beyond”
- Wednesday, March 12** DR. WILLIAM G. LUTTGE Professor, Acting Chair, Executive Director Brain Institute
Department of Neuroscience, University of Florida
“The Brave New World of Brain Machine Interface Technology”
- Wednesday, March 19** MS. DARCIE MACMAHON Assistant Director in Charge of Exhibits
Florida Museum of Natural History
“Re-Creating Natural History: Exhibits in the Making - Lecture and Tour”
- Wednesday, March 26** DR. RICHARD BRIGGS Associate Professor
Department of Radiology, University of Florida
“Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain Function and Activity: Neuroimaging in the
Brain Research and Rehabilitation Center”
- Wednesday, April 2, 11:30am** DR. WINFRED M. PHILLIPS Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School
Spring Luncheon University of Florida
“UF Research: Promise for the Future”

Parking Information:

Use the red parking permit to park in the
Harn Museum metered spaces without paying
During Construction ONLY

Strategic Plan for the University of Florida An Editorial Comment

In considering a strategic plan for the University of Florida, I would hope the administration and the Board of Trustees would read a book entitled The Moral Collapse of the University: Professionalism, Purity and Alienation. This is a very thoughtful book written by Dr. Bruce Wilshire, Rutgers University gives an introduction to his thesis in the Prologue, as follows:

A professor spoke up at a faculty meeting, "We all know what a research university means; to hell with the undergraduates." Thus the perception emerged that our largest "educational" institutions no longer educate. A number of widely read books have recently pinpointed this failure and have attempted to disclose the causes. But none of them has dealt with a key cause: academic professionalism and the overt and covert factors that power this modern thrust for identity. Veiled by scientific research and professionalism are, I believe, archaic initiational and pruficational practices which establish the identity of group and individual member through the exclusion of the unwashed and uncertified, for example, undergraduate students. Today, "university" is practically synonymous with "research institution", which connotes a loose political and economic grouping of disciplines and fields, little concern for one another, each caught up in its own research and publishing interests. "Multiversity" it is called. Most large universities fit the picture. By and large academic professionalism, specialism, and careerism have taken precedence over teaching, and the education and development of both professors and students has been undermined. There is intergenerational failure and culture failure.

Does this describe the kind of institution the University of Florida has become? We are at a crossroads. In my opinion, the evolution of a plan requires a "cultural" change, a reorientation as to what kind of an institution the University of Florida is and should be in the state university system. A first step would be to implement one of the proposals of the strategic plan, namely to decrease undergraduate enrollment.

Enrollment at the University of Florida

Over the past decade, total enrollment at UF has increased by 28% from 36,934 to 47,241 in 2002. By far the largest increase was in undergraduate and professional degree enrollment. Allowing, indeed encouraging the continuous increase in undergraduate enrollment instead of promoting the growth of masters thesis and doctoral enrollment was a mistake of the past decade. The current proposal would decrease undergraduate enrollment over the next few years while attempting to increase that of graduate students. This action is necessary if the proportion of graduate to undergraduate students is to reflect that of our peer institutions. An increase in masters and doctoral students would also help to alleviate the large classes and the teaching crunch in the freshmen and sophomore level classes. These classes at our peer institutions have been taught mainly by graduate assistants over the past 50 years. In all honesty, we know that these first level classes in a discipline which, in the main, involve teaching basic skills, can be as well taught by competent graduate assistants as by tenured faculty.

continued page 4

Interdisciplinary Study

Another element of the strategic plan involves the development of a series of interdisciplinary centers which would concentrate research efforts in the following areas: cancer and genetics, the brain, biotechnology, aging, children and families, and ecology and the environment. There is no doubt that these areas will attack many of the current areas of research needs. However, to establish centers requires substantial funding (an estimated \$4.5 million) which may not be forthcoming in the immediate future. Let me suggest a supplemental proposal which utilizes the efforts of faculty who wish to expand research in diverse academic areas. In the 1980's, as Graduate Dean, I designed a means whereby faculty and doctoral students could weave research from several disciplines into a doctoral degree program, crossing department and even college lines. Faculty and doctoral students were not confined to the disciplines of the Ph.D. degree as it has traditionally existed. Nor did more or less restrictive interdisciplinary programs have to be established. This initiative was abandoned through lack of administrative support when the Graduate School and Sponsored Research were combined. But it might be reconsidered as a flexible alternative in the promotion of interdisciplinary study whether or not permanent centers can be established and funded.

University of Florida Tuition

A proposal of the Strategic Plan involves higher tuition at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is a fact the tuition at the University of Florida is lower than that of its peer institutions. It is so low, in fact, that many of our brightest high school students who would qualify for admission to some of the most prestigious, but higher tuition, universities chose to stay in Florida. In addition, the Bright Futures Scholarship Program which offers free tuition for Floridians with a high GPA in high school course work results in the University of Florida, in effect, giving away a college undergraduate education. Financial pressures may force the state to cap this program in the future. An increase in tuition would also bring forth an adverse reaction to those Floridians who have bought into the prepaid tuition plans. However, if the University of Florida is to reach its potential, it must have more funding. And additional monies from the state will not be forthcoming in the near future. Outside funding will help to keep some programs afloat, but will not be sufficient to fund some of the important changes laid out in the strategic plan. It should be noted, however, that increased tuition at the graduate level involves additional problems since our peer institutions over the past 50 years, at least, have fully funded tuition for graduate assistants. The University of Florida has in the past few years been severely underfunded in tuition waivers and has had to resort to funding graduate assistants tuition from grant funds, funds that could have been utilized in furthering research efforts. The university needs to face this funding priority if it is to advance its educational and research programs to the level of its peer institutions.

Amendment 11

There seems to be some concern among members of the administration and the Board of Trustees that the passage and thus the implementation of Amendment 11 will bring more uncertainty to the workings of the universities in the state system. Thus, in their view, the search for a president at UF should be delayed.

continued page 5

Indeed, in the view of most people involved, just the opposite is true. In fact, FSU, for one, is continuing its search for a new president. The UF Board apparently feels that the statewide board may interfere in or hamper in some way the selection process. However, most feel that if a reasonable period of recruiting provides candidates with strong academic and administrative qualifications, there should be no problem in selecting an appropriate candidate. The University of Florida needs to move ahead with a new administration to implement a plan for the future. We have been in a holding position for a time and it is important to move ahead.

I would hope the retired faculty would consider the various elements of the Strategic Plan as it was outlined in the fall newsletter and as it will be flushed out in the future by the faculty, the administration and the Board of Trustees. Who better to critique the plans for the academic future of the University of Florida.

Florida's Elderly - Economics and Politics

There are 5.3 million Floridians over the age of 50, one third of the state's population. Although age 50 is not elderly in today's world, these Floridians will soon join other retirees to form Florida's older population. According to a study done by Thomas, Warren and Associates, Floridians age 50 and older account for 52% of the state's spending, \$135 billion. They pay \$4.4 billion in property taxes and \$2.7 billion in sales and other taxes. However, this group of Floridians cost the state only \$1.28 billion in health and human services, thus giving the state a net gain of almost \$6 billion.

Florida's senior population, 65 years and older, is predicted to grow substantially when the baby boom generation reaches retirement age. Florida Megatrends, a book jointly authored by Provost David Colburn and FSU Professor Lance deHaven Smith examines some of the effects these growing numbers of retirees will have on Florida's politics.

"By sheer numbers, these retirees will become the single most influential group in state politics, shaping the political agenda and candidates' platforms at all levels of government. At the local level, they will have the ability to decide most elections. In a number of Florida communities, the senior population already constitutes as much as a third and in some cases 40% of the vote. More progressive than their parents in their political and social values, baby boomers are likely to support programs that protect the environment, enhance education and strengthen health care systems, Colburn said. Since many are college graduates themselves, they may even be willing to pay more for schools, especially if they have grandchildren in Florida."

The authors also detail difficulties political leaders face in governing a state that suffers what they call an "identity crisis" because of its diversity. While most states have one or two metropolitan areas that dominate politics, Florida has a dozen such regions, each with its own political identity. Hence, elections, at least at the state level and in the Presidential races will be more difficult to predict, a phenomenon that is evident already in the 2000 Presidential election and this fall's Governor's race. The United States will be facing this increased diversity of its population in the near future, but those states like Florida which have been experiencing a diversified population for some years, will notice extreme changes.

A NOTE FROM DR. GRIERSON

*******IMPORTANT*******

On a recent visit to Finland, my wife was rushed to the hospital with a broken hip. There I presented my Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance card. Problem: we did not have clue as to how to contact them since an "800" number does not work from overseas. My son tried to contact Blue Cross/Blue Shield on the Internet. No way! Eventually, I called the building office of the WinterHaven clinic where we were regular patients. They gave us the number to call. Our BCBS cards now have a sticker on them that reads "From overseas (804) 673-1686. On Internet BLUECARD."

Gainesville Area Cuba Friendship Network

With the advent of the anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crises and with the visits to Cuba of former President Carter, Ralph Nader, many U.S. politicians, and 176,000 other Americans, Cuba is back in the news. After 40 years of the trade embargo, which Castro uses as an excuse for the failures of his economic system, Cuba is still a socialist nation and Fidel Castro is still its leader. Although literacy is at close to 100% and basic health care is readily available, Castro's plans for industrialization have not materialized. Since the Russians pulled out and with the advent of crop failures, the country has suffered grinding poverty. Investments of foreigners in hotels and other resort facilities have promoted a thriving tourist industry on this beautiful island and has provided Cuba with its only source of hard cash. Interestingly, the American dollar, which is a stable currency, is virtually the principal legal tender in Havana. Recently, the U.S. has permitted the sale, for cash, of agricultural and medical products and U.S. farmers from the Midwest who have excess supplies they can't sell are anxious to trade with Cuba. A majority of politicians as well as 63% of the American people would like to lift the restrictions on trade and travel to Cuba. When I was in Cuba two years ago, I joined a group of Texas businessmen who were investigating the possibility of off shore deposits of oil and were eager to get into business in Cuba. However, the Bush administration and a decreasing number of Cuban Americans still favor the embargo.

The Gainesville Area Cuba Friendship Network, a local non-profit group, is sponsoring a series of educational events to promote a better understanding of Cuban history and culture, while advocating a restoration of diplomatic and trade relations between Cuba and the United States. If you would like to be kept informed of meetings and events, send your e-mail address to:

Gainesville Area Cuba Friendship Network
P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville, FL 32604



We welcome these new members who have joined us since our last publication:

Shirley Bond
Wellesley Corbett
Margaret Lindsey

Audrey Clark
Duane Ellifritt
William Stern



Please look at the mailing label on your newsletter. We use the “address label” to advise our members whether their annual dues payments are up to date. Please check the mailing label of this newsletter:

Date on Mailing Label
09/30/01
09/30/02
09/30/03 or later

Take This Action
Pay \$16 (2) years dues
Pay \$8 (1) year dues
Your dues are paid up to date or ahead

Those of you who are in arrears, please use the form on the the last page of this newsletter to submit your dues.

A Note from Lorene Noe:

Thanks to everyone who attended the program in Emerson Alumni Hall in October. Over 75 members were in attendance. Here is some information for your future visits:

When visiting the Retired Faculty Lounge at Emerson Hall, please get the door key from Nora - Reception Area, phone number 392-1691.

After January 1st, she can forward requests for special reservations to:
Special Events - Kim Harris and Sarah Beavers.

Always feel free to call Lorene Noe at 846-0925 for any assistance.

Check out our Website
for current information
[http://
www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu/](http://www.retiredfaculty.ufl.edu/)

Florida Retirement System Hale for Now
Florida State Retirement system is financially sound, but facing big challenges. You may find a full article at
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/business/4584669.htm>

In Memorium

We regret to announce the departure from this life of our reitred colleagues. We extend our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

Joyce M. Aigner, General Extension
Milton W Banks, Physics
Frederick Bartelt, Admissions
Fred Clark, Agronomy
Marjorie Crutcher, General Extension
Joseph Duffy, Materials Science
Marvin E. Entner, Russian History

William A. Fleming, Alumni Affairs
Marion E. Forsman, Electrical Engineering
Charles W. Hooper, Jr., Physics
Richard Jones, Intercollegiate Athletics
Jacob H. Kress, Student Health
Phillip David Stryker, English - Past President RFUF
William Wiltbank, Horticultural Science



RFUF

Retired Faculty of the University of Florida, Inc.
Box 15544 University Station
Gainesville, FL 32604-1554

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Permit No. 1
GAINESVILLE, FL

Address service requested

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| RESERVATION Wednesday, April 2, 2003 | RFUF SPRING LUNCH Sheraton Hotel |
| Name _____ | |
| Address _____ _____ | |
| No. of tickets @ \$13.00 _____ | Deadline: March 27 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| \$8.00 | ANNUAL DUES | Am. Pd. _____ |
| Name: _____ | | |
| Address: _____ _____ | | |
| | | Phone: _____ |
| Retired from _____ | Dept. _____ | |

Please send a check for reservation and/or dues to:
RFUF, John Mahon, 4129 SW 2nd Aveue, Gainesville, FL 32607