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Honors and Awards

Keith Benson receives top award for academic leadership



Keith Benson, Ph.D., a clinical professor and Master of Health Administration program director in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, is the 2026

recipient of the Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership, awarded by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. The Filerman Prize recognizes individuals from AUPHA member programs who have made outstanding contributions to the field of healthcare management education, exhibited leadership in the field and enriched their institutions, their students and health administration education through their work.

Read more [here](#).

Schofield and Fanfan recognized as Florida Nurses Association Nursing Icons



Karen Schofield was named a recipient of a Florida Nurses Association's (FNA) Icon Award in the Education and Research category. Karen was selected for the Heather Scaglione Award, which recognizes individuals who make a lasting impact in supporting and mentoring nursing students.

Dany Fanfan was selected as the recipient of the 2026 Florida Nurses Association Nursing Research Icon Award. The honor recognizes Fanfan's outstanding contributions to nursing research and her commitment to advancing evidence-based practice.

Academic News and Happenings

College of Law Workshop

Judging Culpability, Harm, and Risk: Legal and Lay Punishments of Attempted and Completed Frauds

Christian Mott, Assistant Professor of Law, Florida State University College of Law
Monday, September 14 at noon in Bailey Event Space.

Please email ruthm@law.ufl.edu for more information.

Part of the [Marshall M. Criser Distinguished Faculty Workshop Series](#).

UF Performing Arts presents



Fabiola Méndez

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 7 & 9 pm | UpStage at the Phillips Center

[Event Page](#)

With the cuatro (Puerto Rico's national instrument) as her guide, Fabiola Méndez blends folk, jazz, and Afro-Caribbean influences into a sound rooted in tradition yet refreshingly original. Inspired by the rich musical heritage of her Puerto Rican homeland, she fills the room with warmth, rhythm, and an irresistible sense of joy. This virtuoso cuatrista has graced stages from the Met to NPR's *Tiny Desk Concert*, both solo and with Bad Bunny, and her music has been featured on Disney+ and PBS Kids. Seeing her live is less like attending a performance and more like being welcomed into a celebration.



Bristol Lightning

Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 7 & 9 pm | UpStage at the Phillips Center

[Event Page](#)

In 1927, Bristol, Tennessee, gave the world its first country music recordings. Nearly a century later, Bristol Lightning reimagines that legacy with a little Americana, a little classical, and a lot of roots, forging an inventive journey across genres unlike anything you've heard before. This lively, feel-good performance brings cello, mandolin, guitar, bass, and vocals together in surprising ways, honoring American roots tradition while boldly pushing it in new directions.

UF Gulf Scholars Funding Opportunity: Host experiential learning in Spring/Summer 2027

Do you have a Gulf-related research project, field experience, internship, or other hands-on opportunity that could benefit from undergraduate student involvement?

The UF Gulf Scholars Program is offering grants of \$750–\$5,000 to help UF faculty, staff and community partners create experiential learning opportunities for Gulf Scholars. Funding can support student stipends, research experiences, internships, field excursions, project implementation and other eligible expenses.

Learn more at our virtual info session next week

Wednesday, Sept. 9 | Noon–1 p.m. | Zoom

If you're considering applying—or simply have an idea you'd like to explore—we strongly encourage you to join us. We'll share best practices for designing a Gulf Scholars experiential learning opportunity, discuss what we're looking for in proposals and answer questions about the application process. [Register now.](#)

Proposals due Sunday October 11, at 11:59p.m. Learn more and apply at the this [link](#).

Global Learning Institute applications now open



UF faculty are invited to apply to the Spring 2027 **Global Learning Institute (GLI)**. This professional development program helps faculty design and incorporate international content into their existing curriculum, enriching students' global perspectives.

Hear from past participants about their experiences and learn more about the program by attending an online information session (click the session names below to register and receive the Zoom link):

- [Session 1](#): Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- [Session 2](#): Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- [Session 3](#): Friday, October 16, 2026 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.
- [Session 4](#): Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted by **October 25, 2026**. Send any questions to Carrie Martins at cmartins@ufic.ufl.edu.

Superior Accomplishment Award nominations due October 23



Know someone at UF who has gone above and beyond? Nominate them for a Superior Accomplishment Award! Now in its 38th year, the awards program recognizes faculty and staff who have contributed outstanding service in their fields during the previous fiscal year — July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The nomination period is underway and runs through Oct. 23.

Learn more and submit a nomination on the UFHR [website](#).

Office hours: Office of Accreditation, Assessment and Curriculum

Navigating the Academic Flow: Curriculum & Assessment Support

Need a curriculum or assessment change?
Have questions about Simple Syllabus?

Join the Office of Accreditation, Assessment,
and Curriculum Office Hours to learn more.

Every third Wednesday
from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
effective Wed 9/16/2026



Assessment Plans and SLOs

Follow the five-step
continuous
improvement cycle
to refine student
learning and
teaching methods.



Simple Syllabus Roadmap

Utilize this dynamic
platform as a central
roadmap for the
academic journey
and student
success.



Curriculum Approval Workflows

Navigate the
faculty-led system
for curriculum
changes,
including reviews
by the Academic
Assessment
Committee.

Curious about how to update curriculum, propose a new course, or strengthen your academic program assessment efforts? Stop by our Zoom Office Hours hosted by the Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Curriculum.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97426778166>

Academic Artifact

Unusual, meaningful, revelatory, mysterious and just plain weird things turn up in professors' offices. *Academic Artifact* will spotlight those objects and the stories behind them.

This week's artifact ...



"Pinecone Trophies" **Victoria Pagán** **Distinguished Professor, Classics**

I'm pleased to share my age-group trophies from the Flatwoods 5K in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2023. They are made from pinecones from the trees in UF's Austin Cary Forest.

Whenever I can, I sign up for this race because the course is flat, the temperatures are cool, and the surface is forgiving. The scenery is gorgeous, and there's always wildlife and birdsong.

According to Sophocles, "Success follows effort." According to me, success derives from a commitment to the process. Long distance runners know there's only one way to the finish line, only one way to guarantee success: left foot, right foot, repeat.

I also run the Flatwoods 5K because the proceeds support forestry education and outreach to help sustain Florida's natural heritage.

Care to shine a light on your own academic artifact? Simply complete this brief [Qualtrics](#). If your artifact is selected for publication, we'll send you an Office of the Provost portable lantern.

Secrets of the Swamp

Kudos to **Lauren Solberg**, professor and director of the Program in Bioethics, Law and Medical Professionalism in the Department of Community Health & Family Medicine in the College of Medicine.

Dr. Solberg takes home the Provost's Pen and UF travel mug for zooming in just ahead of her competitors to correctly identify last week's mystery mascots as Otto Mattix (engineering) and Mighty Molar (dentistry). Nice work, Speedy Solberg!

Tigert Babies

Every child born into a UF family during President John Tigert's tenure (1928-1947) was presented with a special gift *handmade* by First Lady Edith Tigert, according to an obscure UF archival document.

The first person to correctly guess the gift (or find it in the dusty document) and share it in an email to ahooover@ufl.edu wins the stupendous Provost's Pen and UF travel mug.



Edith Tigert

[Faculty Update Submission Form](#)

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