



Honors and Awards

Academic News

Academic Artifact

Secrets of the Swamp

Honors and Awards

Sabine Grunwald named 2026 ASA Fellow



The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) named Sabine Grunwald, professor of pedometrics and GeoAI in the UF/IFAS Department of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences, a 2026 ASA Fellow. It is the Society's highest honor recognizing exceptional achievement and service in agronomy. Dr. Grunwald's work combines

artificial intelligence, geospatial technologies, Earth observation and soil sensing. Her pioneering research bridges soil science, crop production, and agronomy, delivering high-impact solutions that scale effectively from local fields to global systems.

Read more [here](#).

UF Jazz Band goes *In The Swamp* with new all-original big band album



The University of Florida Jazz Band once again steps into the national spotlight this week with the release of ***In The Swamp***, an ambitious new album featuring original big band compositions and showcasing the artistry, energy, and distinctive musical voice emerging from UF Jazz Studies. The album was released on the Mark Records Mark Masters Series and can be heard on all major streaming and digital platforms.

Produced by UF Director of Jazz Studies Scott Wilson, ***In The Swamp*** is more than a university ensemble recording—it is a snapshot of a program where original music, creative risk-taking, and professional-level performance come together.

Wilson contributes four original compositions and arrangements to the project: the title track, “**In The Swamp**,” “**Needing You**,” “**Turn Back the Clock**,” and “**The Santa Maria**.” The album also features original works by **Clyde Connor**, **Vince Norman**, and **Corey Burton**, creating a recording built entirely around new high-energy music and creative writing.

Recorded at Pulp Arts in Gainesville, Florida, the album captures the UF Jazz Band with the intensity and personality of a working professional big band—powerful ensemble playing, fearless soloists, contemporary big band writing, hard-driving music, lyrical passages, and cinematic textures.

In The Swamp has been entered for consideration in the 69th Grammy Awards® in the category of Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album!

Check out the album trailer on [YouTube](#).

Academic News and Happenings

Center for Teaching Excellence workshops



Want to RSVP for these events? Create an account or register in the [Passport Portal](#).

From Critique to Coaching: Elevating Feedback in Clinical Education

Presented by Michael Hodges

September 25, 2026

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM

Online

This session offers practical strategies to help you shift from simply critiquing student performance to coaching for future clinical independence. Whether you are taking your very first clinical student or have been mentoring learners for decades, this presentation will give you simple, actionable tools to make feedback more productive, less stressful, and far more impactful.

AI Assessment in Higher Education -- Validity and Fairness

Presented by David Miller, Ph.D. and Anne Seraphine, Ph.D.

September 28, 2026

1:55 PM - 3:25 PM

In Person

In this workshop, we will summarize how the use of AI in assessment has changed psychometric concerns about the effects of AI on the validity (i.e., score interpretations and uses) and fairness (i.e., subpopulation differences in validity) of classroom assessments. Participants in the workshop will learn how to (1) develop fair and valid AI assessments, (2) document and use validity and fairness evidence, and (3) ensure the use and interpretations of valid and fair assessments in their

classes.

Ethics Basics for Educational Research

Presented by Diba Mani, Ph.D.

September 29, 2026

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM

Virtual

A basic introduction to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) in educational research, covering ethical considerations for study methodologies, review types, and the UF IRB approval process.

Instructional Team Training & Support Strategies for Large-Enrollment Courses

Presented by Sean Trainor and Anthony Coman

September 30, 2026

09:35 AM - 11:05 AM

Virtual

This workshop will help instructors develop training, support, and management strategies for leading a range of instructional teams, whether consisting of adjuncts, GAs, and/or full-time faculty.

Teaching Sparks: Asking Good Questions and Responding to Answers

Presented by Michael Barber, Ph.D.

September 30, 2026

12:50 PM - 1:20 PM

Virtual

Learn to craft questions that spark thinking, deepen understanding, and fuel discussions! We will also discuss strategies for responding to students in ways that promote learning.

UF Performing Arts presents



Six One Five Collective

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 7 & 9 pm | UpStage at the Phillips Center

Six One Five Collective returns to UpStage for a high-energy night of powerhouse vocals, rich harmonies, clever lyrics, and undeniable onstage chemistry. Made up of four standout singer-songwriters, this Nashville-based band captures the spirit of great country music. Their sound feels like a road trip soundtrack, in a mix that's joyful, familiar, yet full of surprises. Blending original songs, crowd-pleasing covers, and hits they've written for other artists, they deliver a performance full of fun and personality.

Read more [here](#).

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 ...



"RAP poster"
Trysh Travis
Associate Professor
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

This poster promotes Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), a residential drug-free therapeutic community (TC) in Washington DC. It was founded in 1970 by Ron C. Clark, a former addict, as an alternative to methadone maintenance treatment.

At the time, many addicts believed methadone was a kind of 'chemical slavery' meant to pacify drug users. Like Mr. Clark, they argued that the only way to quit drugs was to rebuild your entire personality from the ground up.

TCs like RAP invited residents to do that rebuilding: run by ex-addicts, they mixed strict discipline with love and service to the communities most affected by drug trafficking. They were typically short-lived and left few records—which makes my job as a historian of substance abuse treatment very difficult.

I love the way this poster illustrates a key moment in the evolution of late 20th-century healthcare.

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

Dr. Michael Kung dons the winner's crown this week.

Dr. Kung, director and assistant scholar at the Office for Global Research Engagement in the UF International Center, was the first to email correctly that:

The creator of last week's sketch was UF Art Professor **Hollis H. Holbrook**. As Dr. Kung noted, Professor Holbrook drew the sketch as part of the preparatory work on his mural, [The History of Learning in Florida](#), which takes up most of one wall of the beautiful Smathers Library Grand Reading Room.

Great work, Dr. Kung!

Prez My Ride

Be the first to insert the correct UF president's name in the following sentences in an email to ahooover@ufl.edu to win the elegant and practical UF provost's pen and UF travel mug.

_____ drove a red 1985 GMC pickup that he proudly worked on himself.

_____ was gifted a "brand new 1947 Buick Roadmaster complete with all accessories" when he stepped down, according to his eponymous biography.

_____ loved his 2004 Harley Davidson Road King and 2002 BMW K1200LT.

_____ waved to the crowds from a spanking new 1960 Buick convertible in the 1959 UF Homecoming Parade.

[Faculty Update Submission Form](#)

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