



Office of the Provost

FACULTY UPDATE

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Honors and Awards

Victor Blanco receives Award for Excellence in Public Outreach



The American Fisheries Society recognized Victor Blanco for his outstanding Extension work advancing sustainable fisheries, marine education, and community engagement in coastal communities. His efforts connect research, education, and stakeholder partnerships to promote science-based stewardship and sustainable use of Florida's marine resources.

Read more [here](#).

Azra Bihorac elected chair of NIH Clinical Informatics and Digital Health study section



Azra Bihorac, M.D., M.S., the UF College of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Research and R. Glenn Davis Distinguished Professor of Medicine, has been elected chair of the NIH Clinical Informatics and Digital Health (CIDH) study section. CIDH reviews research focused on developing, validating, and implementing health IT tools such as mobile health apps, AI/ML-based medical software, telemedicine, and clinical decision-support systems that improve healthcare delivery and patient-clinician data sharing.

Read more [here](#).

Hwayoung Cho appointed U.S. Director of AI Nurses Network



Hwayoung Cho Ph.D., R.N., has been appointed the AI Nurses Network's first country director for the United States, extending the Network's international leadership presence — previously established across Asia, Europe and Canada — to the U.S.

The AI Nurses Network is a global clinical research network dedicated to advancing artificial intelligence in nursing and healthcare, supporting nurses in developing and applying AI tools to improve patient care and population health and connecting them with education and training, seed funding and scholarship opportunities and relevant news and events.

In this national leadership role, Dr. Cho will lead the Network's efforts in the United States and expand opportunities for nurses to engage in AI innovation, research, education and practice. This appointment recognizes Dr. Cho's leadership at the forefront of AI in nursing and strengthens the UF College of Nursing's national and international visibility in this rapidly advancing field.

Academic News and Happenings

Textbook adoptions and syllabus posting open for Spring 2027 ***AI use statements now required***

University of Florida [Regulation 7.049](#) and Florida Board of Governors Regulation [8.003](#) require that all required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials, along with course syllabi, be posted no later than 45 days before the start of the term. These materials must appear within the University's course registration system and be publicly accessible on the UF website. Timely posting supports students in managing academic workload and financial planning related to course materials.

AI use statements are now required by the state to be part of all syllabi. The levels of permitted/integrated AI use for students and faculty are provided as choices in Simple Syllabus new components, so instructors indicate what is appropriate for each course. Options include a customizable statement for Instructor Use of AI.

See additional details [here](#).

New to UF? Join us for a guided tour of local gems



Faculty new to UF or still getting to know Gainesville are invited to spend a day discovering both — on a guided bus tour set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2.

The day's itinerary ranges across many of the area's most distinctive spots: Sweetwater Preserve, the city's celebrated nature and birding park, the Cade Museum, named in honor of Gatorade inventor and UF nephrologist Robert Cade; Depot Park, Gainesville's hub for outdoor family fun; and a range of iconic and hidden-gem locations across campus.

At stops along the way, Instructional Professor Steven Noll will give a presentation on UF and Florida history, and Chuck Clemons, UF vice president for government and community relations, will speak to the university's role in the state of Florida. The tour wraps up at First Magnitude Brewing Company, one of Gainesville's several fine local breweries.

The tour is sponsored by the UF Office of the Provost and IFAS. Space is limited, so register today at [RSVP link](#).

Tech Byte: NaviGator AI tools to help promote student success Sept 17



Faculty and instructional support staff are invited to UFIT's upcoming Tech Byte. The virtual event explores how NaviGator AI Chat, Tutor and Notebook can be leveraged to help students create personalized learning environments and experiences.

NaviGator AI is UF's campuswide, self-service AI suite with nine distinct tools offering more than 70 large language models.

Register [here](#).

New clinical teaching resources and fall workshop series

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) has a new initiative dedicated to supporting clinical educators across campus. The new Clinical Teaching Fellow for the 2026-2027 academic year is Michael Hodges PT, DPT, MHS in the UF Department of Physical Therapy.

Part of Michael's role will be to partner directly with faculty across the University's health professions to develop clinical teaching resources, strategies, and instructional tools to support our clinical faculty.

As part of this initiative, the CTE is hosting a four-part Clinical Teaching Workshop Series this fall.

Session 1: From Critique to Coaching: Elevating Feedback in Clinical Education – Friday 9/25 12:50-1:50

Session 2: Reimagining Student Clinical Assessments: Competency Based Clinical Education and Entrustable Professional Activities – Monday 10/5 1:55-2:55

Session 3: Minutes, Not Hours: High-Yield Teaching in Fast-Paced Clinical Environments – Monday 10/19 1:55-2:55

Session 4: Making Thinking Visible: Strategies to Develop Student Clinical Reasoning – Monday 11/9 1:55-2:55

Registration & Details:

You can review detailed session descriptions and register via the UF CTE website [here](#).

Beyond these workshops, the [CTE](#) is eager to learn more about the specific needs and priorities of your respective programs.

UFCE Learn Over Lunch



| LEARN OVER LUNCH |

COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Join us for an upcoming Learn Over Lunch on the UF policy development process on Monday, September 28, at 12:00 p.m., led by UFCE Assistant Director of Policy David Altman. This session will provide a practical overview of how UF policies move from initial drafting through review, stakeholder input, approval, and publication. It will also include tips for developing clear, effective policies and navigating the process more efficiently. We hope to see you there!

Register https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/WbRFQVddQouE9z4j_SwIHQ.

Center for Teaching Excellence workshops



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

Rethinking Assessment with Mastery Paths
Presented by Amber Emanuel
September 17, 2026

11:45am – 12:15pm
Online

This session explores how Mastery Paths in Canvas can transform assessment into a personalized learning pathway—using students' performance to guide targeted practice and feedback.

How We Learn: Teaching Strategies that Maximize Learning

Presented by Michael Barber
September 17, 2026
1:55pm – 3:25pm
Online

The goal of great teaching is to help students learn. This workshop explores the science behind adult learning and outlines strategies you can use to maximize learning.

Getting Started With AI: The Essentials of AI Policies

Presented by Jennifer Parker
September 17, 2026
12:50pm – 1:20pm
Online

Explore essential AI policy elements that align with your teaching philosophy, empower exploration, and uphold academic integrity.

The Grading Dilemma and Authentic Assessment

Presented by Gillian Lord
September 18, 2026
9:35am - 11:05am
In person

In this workshop we will discuss the challenges we face with grading and grades, and introduce the essential elements of evaluation, considering both high- and low-stakes assessments, and formative and summative assessments.

Incorporating UF Libraries into the Classroom

Presented by Suzanne Stapleton
September 18, 2026
11:45am - 12:45pm
Online

The need for students to develop information literacy skills is growing rapidly and UF Libraries have a wealth of relevant activities, tools, and resources to contribute. This workshop will provide faculty tips to incorporate library resources and services into their classrooms.

Tenure and Promotion Workshop Series: Demystifying Tenure and Promotion at UF

Presented by Chris Hass and Alexandra Bitton-Bailey
September 22, 2026
9:35am - 10:35am
Hybrid

Join us for an engaging workshop for faculty in their first few years at UF that unpacks the tenure and promotion process, step by step. You'll hear directly from

the Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, get your unique questions answered, and walk away with insider tips for preparing your tenure and promotion packet.

Authentic Dialogue in the Classroom

Presented by Gabriela Hamerlinck

September 22, 2026

12:50pm – 1:50pm

Online

We will explore the 'Intentional Pedagogy Framework' which provides a structure to help instructors evaluate the risks and rewards of their topic choices.

Adding Play-Based Learning to Increase College Student Engagement

Presented by Melina Jimenez and Kexuan Wu

September 23, 2026

10:40am – 11:40am

In person

Integrating play into college classrooms can enhance learning and engagement, foster collaboration and teamwork, and reduce stress and anxiety for students.

AI Made Easy: Useful Tools to Improve Course Design and Engage Students

Presented by Crystal Marull

September 23, 2026

1:55pm – 2:55pm

Online

This workshop introduces practical AI tools to generate materials to support learning, such as study guides, podcasts, QTI quizzes, advanced HTML Canvas pages, songs, and multi-voice dialogues

It's in the Syllabus

Presented by Maria Leite and Lupita Eyde-Tucker

September 24, 2026

12:50pm - 1:50pm

Online

This workshop will explore technical and pedagogical aspects of syllabi development in Simple Syllabus.

Elevate your skills: UF's acclaimed communications course - now open for enrollment



Looking to boost your career and leadership skills through better communication? Join our Strategic Communications course—a one-day-a-month program over six months, tailor-made for university professionals like yourself.

Here's what you'll get:

- * Apply design and systems thinking to craft effective communication strategies.
- * Learn how storytelling can rally support for your mission.
- * Develop your thought leadership in your field of study.
- * Communicate inclusively to connect with diverse audiences.
- * Deliver presentations that leave a lasting impression.
- * Develop slide decks that elevate your presentations.
- * Facilitate high-stakes meetings with top administrators, policymakers, and funders.
- * Navigate challenging communication scenarios with strategic thinking.

Join hundreds of your fellow university leaders and scholars who have already taken this popular course.

Take a look for yourself. Applications are open until **Oct. 4**.

<https://hr.ufl.edu/professional-development/leadership-development/strategic-communications-academy/>

Questions? Please contact [Matt Sheehan](#), Managing Director, Center for Public Interest Communication.

Art and Mindfulness at the Harn Museum Sept 19



Explore balance as both a physical practice and mindful way of being. Through gentle yoga and focused breath, explore balance as a dynamic state of being. Designed for all levels, this session encourages curiosity, resilience, and ease while fostering a deeper connection to self. 45-minute practice followed by a 15-minute spotlight art gallery tour.

Doors open for this free event at 9:45am. 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 ...



"Amigurumi"
Carolyn Hanson
Clinical Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy

As an occupational therapist who teaches a course about multicultural activities in which people engage, I am excited when a student finds a new activity (known as an occupation in my course) to explore and then embrace.

Several years ago, one student decided to learn the Japanese art of amigurumi. Amigurumi requires knitting or crocheting yarn to create fanciful creatures or objects and uses continuous spirals and stuffing.

The result was an exquisitely created Gator-colored knitted base containing an unkillable plant. Substantial time was required to complete both parts of the plant with such wonderful workmanship.

It is always special when a student creates something of meaning for you. The gift of the plant on the last day of class was a good reminder that students appreciate the effort spent in developing them as future health professionals.

Without a doubt, it is my favorite office item.

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

Props to **Nicole Cecil**, an academic advisor for UF Online in the CLAS Academic Advising Center.

Ms. Cecil was the first to guess correctly that First Lady Edith Tigert *hand-knit socks* for every child born to a UF employee during President Tigert's administration.

This we know thanks to Edith Pitts, an administrative assistant in the UF Office of the President for much of the last century.

Ms. Pitts capped her career serving Presidents John Tigert, J. Hillis Miller and J. Wayne Reitz with a professional memoir entitled "Reminiscences of Three University Presidents" and kept in the UF Archives.

The 4-part memoir brings to life the penury of UF in its formative years, when Florida was a backwater and the university could barely make ends meet.

There was little money for entertaining or other inessentials, so the Tigerts personally pitched in, writes Ms. Pitts.

"Every child born into the university family was presented with a hand-knitted pair of booties by the University's first lady, and every faculty child who was married and invited the Tigerts to the wedding or sent them an announcement received a gift — usually a splendid gift — from the President and his wife, the cost of which was usually defrayed by Mrs. Tigert."

Congratulations, Ms. Cecil!

Inscrutable Sketchbook

Take a look at this preparatory sketch, created by a UF professor while designing a public artwork on campus.

Be the first to name the artist, the artwork and its location in an email to ahoover@ufl.edu to secure the dazzling Provost's Pen and UF travel mug!



[Faculty Update Submission Form](#)

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