



Office of the Provost

FACULTY UPDATE

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Honors and Awards

Dejana Braithwaite appointed to NIH study section for cancer screening and care



Dejana Braithwaite, Ph.D., associate director for population sciences at the UF Health Cancer Institute, has been appointed to serve as a standing member of the Health Services: Quality and Effectiveness study section in the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Center for Scientific Review is launching a new study section, called the Health Services Research in Cancer Screening and Care Study Section. Once chartered, Braithwaite's membership will transfer to that study section. She will serve through June 2028.

The study section is being created by NIH in response to the growth in health services research applications. It will provide dedicated scientific review of research focused on cancer screening and care.

Read more [here](#).

Adrian Roitberg wins national award



Adrian Roitberg, CLAS Chemistry, has been named the winner of the 2027 American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research, sponsored by the ACS Division of Computers in Chemistry. The national award recognizes and encourages the use of computers in the advancement of the chemical and biological sciences. Previous winners include two winners of the Nobel Prize and just one former UF colleague (Merz, 2010).

Read more [here](#).

Lori Knackstedt elected Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology



Lori Knackstedt, Professor Psychology, has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Fellowship in the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology is a prestigious honor awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence and leadership in advancing research in the field of neuroscience. The designation acknowledges Dr. Knackstedt's impact in research and service within the organization and the broader neuroscience community.

Academic News and Happenings

Upcoming workshops with the Center for Teaching Excellence

In order to RSVP for these events, you will need to create a [Passport Portal account](#). If you already have a Passport account, you can register in the Passport Portal.

NaviGator Notebook: AI that Works with Your Content

Presented by Tammy Barber

September 3, 2026

1:55pm – 2:55pm

Online

Turn your course content into useful resources with NaviGator Notebook. Learn to manage sources, chats, and creations while generating study guides, quizzes, podcasts, videos, and more.

Human-Centered AI in Education: Insights from Yellowdig and Packback

Presented by Natalie Coers

September 9, 2026

11:45am – 12:45pm

Online

This workshop explores how human-centered AI can enhance teaching and learning while keeping meaningful human interaction at the core of the educational experience. Participants will be introduced to the principles of Human-Centered AI (HCAI) and examine two case studies, Yellowdig and Packback, that demonstrate how AI-supported tools can promote engagement, community building, inquiry, and writing development.

Insights into GatorEvals

Presented by John Jordi and Melina Jimenez

September 10, 2026

1:55pm – 2:55pm

Online

Join us for an engaging workshop that turns student evaluation data into actionable insights. We'll dive into the aggregate findings of the most common themes captured in students' comments.

Textbook Adoption Process

Presented by Ryan Rushing

September 10, 2026

3:00pm – 3:30pm

Online

In this workshop, we will review the textbook adoption process and best practices for ensuring that textbook adoptions are entered accurately in order to improve the student experience with course materials.

This workshop is designed primarily for staff who are responsible for entering textbook adoptions for courses, but faculty and administrators are also welcome to register and attend.

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 ...



"Hugh Manatee"
Steve Noll
Professor, History

I teach Florida history and am obsessed with manatees. Here I am with Hugh Manatee, who lives in my office, along with other manatees given to me by students.

Hugh proudly wears his Dr. Noll "Class Mascot" T-shirt given to him for working with the "Humanities in the Sunshine State" summer program during the 2010s. Hugh goes to all of my classes; I hand him out to students who participate well.

He is so much more than a stuffed animal. He is the symbol of the positive relationship between student, professor, course content, and the fragile Florida environment.

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

Many players matched the presidential dogs with their masters but struggled with why one was named "G.B." in last week's **Small Dogs/Big Dogs** puzzler.

Guesses included "George Bernard," "Green Bean," "Good Boy," "Great Big," "Gator Bane," "Gainesville Boy," "Gentle Ben," "Gator Boy" and "Green Bay."

Huge congratulations to **Tolga Catmakas**, a postdoctoral associate in the College of Medicine's department of pharmacology and therapeutics, for breaking free of the pack to unlock the secret.

Dr. Catmakas answered correctly that Annie belonged to President Machen, Chester to President Criser and G.B. to President Lombardi ... short, of course, for "Gator Bait."

G.B. was a border collie-German shepherd mix; Annie, a yellow Labrador and Chester, an English springer spaniel. As for how they got their names:

Our day was made when **Marshall Criser III**, President Criser's son, emailed out of the blue to report that Chester was named by his brother, Mark, "in honor of legendary Florida lawyer Chesterfield Smith."

Criser, the former chancellor of the State University System and a past member of the UF Board of Trustees, is the president of [Piedmont University](#) in Georgia.

Watch future editions of *Secrets of the Swamp* for more contests on the names and other mysteries of UF'S presidential — and provostorial — pets.

Mascot Mysteries

With the Gators set to play the FAU Owls in Saturday's season opener, fans in the Swamp are sure to enjoy the antics of Albert, Alberta and [Owlsley](#).

Let us now recall some other, lesser-known mascots.

Below, two mascots who once represented the UF colleges of engineering and dentistry. Be the first to name them in an email to ahover@ufl.edu to win the scandalously fine Provost's Pen and UF travel mug.



[Faculty Update Submission Form](#)

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