

Commencement
SPRING 2017



Greetings from the President

On behalf of the University of Florida and our administration, faculty and staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, the Class of 2017, and to your family and friends.

Today's ceremony celebrates your considerable accomplishment in completing a degree program at one of the world's great universities. I share your pride and excitement, and I am confident that your degree – and the skills and experience you acquired while at this university – will serve you well in your careers and lives.

It has been a privilege to have you as a part of our community, and the university is better for your time here. I hope you remain connected to UF as active alumni and members of The Gator Nation.

Good luck, best wishes, and Go Gators!



W. Kent Fuchs

University of Florida President

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th president of the University of Florida in January 2015. Under President Fuchs' leadership, the university has developed shared goals for the decade ahead. UF's overarching aspiration is to be a premier comprehensive university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership.

President Fuchs came to UF from Cornell University, where he served as provost. He also served as dean of the Cornell College of Engineering. Before that, he was the head of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University and a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois. President Fuchs is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery. He earned his doctoral degree in electrical engineering from



the University of Illinois. He holds a master's degree in divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a bachelor's degree from Duke University.

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Warrington College of Business

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.

College of Dentistry

Chimay Anumba, Ph.D.

College of Design, Construction and Planning

Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.

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The Graduate School

Michael Reid, Ph.D.

College of Health and Human Performance

Nick Place, Ph.D.

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Michael L. Good, M.D.

College of Medicine

Anna M. McDaniel, Ph.D., R.N.

College of Nursing

Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.

College of Pharmacy

Michael G. Perri, Ph.D.

College of Public Health and Health Professions

James W. Lloyd, D.V.M., Ph.D.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Judith C. Russell, M.S.

University Libraries

Jen Day Shaw, Ph.D.

Dean of Students

PHOTOGRAPHS — The university requests that all commencement guests remain in their seats while taking photographs; no guests are permitted in the graduates' seating area. Photographs of the graduates as they cross the stage are available through companies that have contracts with the university. Color photographs are available from University Photography, PO Box 2454, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2454, 205-391-9500.

2017 SPRING
COMMENCEMENT

Message from the Dean

Dr. R. Elaine Turner

Commencement is one of those rare moments in one's life when time stands still. On this day, our graduates reflect and relive years of experiences, relationships and adventures while simultaneously anticipating a future of new encounters, challenges and opportunities. It is a time for thanking those who have supported and assisted along the way while realizing a new journey is about to begin.

In the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences we educate nearly 6,000 students each year across a wide range of disciplines and majors - and we are proud that we do so one student at a time. Each of today's graduates enters a world that needs their ideas and energy. We face many challenges - from feeding a growing global population to finding new ways to protect our precious natural resources and managing global economic systems driven by agriculture and energy. Because they are uniquely prepared to meet these challenges, CALS graduates are in high demand by business and industry, agencies and academia, government and non-profits. Whether moving into a new career or advancing on to the best graduate and professional schools in the nation, CALS graduates are prepared to confront real issues with the knowledge, experience and commitment to achieve great success. They enter the work world prepared to contribute and ready to lead.

A few years ago, the University of Florida chose today's graduates to attend this great institution because of the promise and potential each one possessed. During their time here, that potential has been encouraged, challenged and tested.



Now we hope that each of our graduates will continue to live by the ideals and values that have been developed in the classroom - to pursue excellence in all endeavors and be in service to the world as a member of the Gator Nation and a graduate of CALS. We hope that you will continue to challenge yourselves and grow and learn throughout your lives.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I congratulate each of our graduates upon receiving a degree from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida. This is an accomplishment and a distinct honor, one of which you deserve to be proud. It is an honor for me to welcome you to the alumni family of the University of Florida and CALS. I hope that you will stay in contact with your alma mater and continue to be a loyal supporter of the Gator Nation.

Congratulations!

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) administers the degree programs of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). IFAS is a federal, state and local government partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources and the life sciences and to making the knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. With 22 undergraduate majors, more than 50 areas of specialization and 22 graduate programs, CALs is an educational leader in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences.

Mission

The mission of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is to deliver unsurpassed educational programs that prepare students to address the world's critical challenges related to agriculture, food systems, human wellbeing, natural resources and sustainable communities.

The Land Grant University System

The University of Florida is part of a network of universities across the country whose heritage extends back more than 150 years. Known as the land-grant universities, they were created by a historic piece of legislation, the Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862.

The Morrill Act established a nationwide network of public universities with a new mission. They would not only offer traditional disciplines such as medicine, theology and law, they would also teach agricultural science, military tactics and engineering. Moreover, these institutions were created with federal financial support, designed to make higher education affordable to people from modest backgrounds. The term "land-grant" refers to grants in the form of federal lands given to each state for the establishment of a public institution.

In the decades that followed, the land-grant system revolutionized higher education and made it possible for millions of men and women to earn college degrees. As they joined the workforce, these individuals transformed myriad communities by using their knowledge and determination to create new products and services, and devise better ways to deliver existing ones.

In the agricultural and natural resource sciences, the land-grant system also gave rise to an agricultural experiment station (created by the Hatch Act in 1887) and a Cooperative Extension Service (created by the Smith-Lever Act in 1914) associated with each land-grant institution. With these tools, land-grant institutions deliver research-based education and solutions to local, statewide, national and global challenges. Today, America's land-grant universities continue to fulfill their mandate for openness, accessibility and service to people.

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Administration

Jack M. Payne
Senior Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jeanna Mastrodicasa
Associate Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

R. Elaine Turner
Dean
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Joel Brendemuhl
Associate Dean
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Allen F. Wysocki
Associate Dean
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Jacqueline K. Burns
Dean and Director
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

John Davis
Associate Dean
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Sherry Larkin
Associate Dean
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Nick T. Place
Dean and Director
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Thomas A. Obreza
Senior Associate Dean
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Saqib Mukhtar
Associate Dean
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Martin B. Main
Associate Dean
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Michael Gutter
Associate Dean
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

IFAS/CALS Chairs and Directors

Dorota Z. Haman
Agricultural and Biological
Engineering

Brian E. Myers
Agricultural Education and
Communication

Robert A. Gilbert
Agronomy

Geoffrey E. Dahl
Animal Sciences

Michael E. Rogers
Citrus Research and
Education Center

Blair D. Siegfried
Entomology and Nematology

Rosemary Loria
Environmental Horticulture

Gregg S. Nuessly
Everglades Research and
Education Center

Tracy A. Irani
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Jorge R. Rey
Florida Medical Entomology
Laboratory

Spiro Stefanou
Food and Resource Economics

Susan S. Percival
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Terrell T. Baker III
School of Forest Resources and
Conservation

Robin M. Giblin-Davis
Fort Lauderdale Research and
Education Center

John E. Rechcigl
Gulf Coast Research and
Education Center

Kevin M. Folta
Horticultural Sciences

Ronald D. Cave
Indian River Research and
Education Center

Eric W. Triplett
Microbiology and Cell Science

Roger Kjelgren
Mid-Florida Research and
Education Center

Thomas K. Frazer
School of Natural Resources and
Environment

Nicholas B. Comerford
North Florida Research and
Education Center

Rosemary Loria
Plant Pathology

John D. Arthington
Range Cattle Research and
Education Center

K. Ramesh Reddy
Soil and Water Sciences

Calvin E. Arnold
Southwest Florida Research
and Education Center

Edward A. Evans
Tropical Research and
Education Center

Wes Wood
West Florida Research and
Education Center

Eric C. Hellgren
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



COMMENCEMENT AGENDA – SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 7:00 p.m.

Presiding	W. Kent Fuchs, President <i>University of Florida</i>
Prelude and Student Processional	Gainesville Brass Quintet
Platform Processional	Holton's Highlanders
National Anthem	Virginia Lane Gainesville Brass Quintet
Welcome	W. Kent Fuchs
Introductions	R. Elaine Turner, Dean <i>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</i>
Presentation of Distinguished Alumnus Award	Jack M. Payne, Senior Vice President <i>Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences</i>
Presentation of College Awards	R. Elaine Turner
Commissioning Recognition	R. Elaine Turner
Student Address	Jose Alvarez
Commencement Address	W. Kent Fuchs
Presenting Candidates for Graduate Degrees	R. Elaine Turner
Conferring of Graduate Degrees	W. Kent Fuchs
Presenting Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees	R. Elaine Turner
Closing Remarks	W. Kent Fuchs
Alma Mater	Virginia Lane Gainesville Brass Quintet
Recessional and Postlude	Gainesville Brass Quintet

Commencement Marshals

CHIEF MARSHAL

Ronald J. Spitznagel

CALS MARSHALS

Katherine L. Ahrens
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Amy M. Alexander
Environmental Horticulture

Md Ali Babar
Agronomy

Rebecca W. Baldwin
Entomology and Nematology

Xiang Bi
Food and Resource Economics

Dana L. Bigham
Natural Resources and Environment

Drion G. Boucias
Entomology and Nematology

Emilio M. Bruna
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Cathy H. Carr
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

David G. Clark
Environmental Horticulture

Jennifer L. Clark
Food and Resource Economics

Natalie Coers
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Thomas A. Colquhoun
Environmental Horticulture

H. Charlotte Emerson
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Kathleen H. Fletcher
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Kate Fogarty
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Salvador A. Gezan
Forest Resources and Conservation

Erica M. Goss
Plant Pathology

Liwei Gu
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Timothy J. Hackmann
Animal Sciences

Andrew D. Hanson
Horticultural Sciences

Christine A. Holyoak
Microbiology and Cell Science

Lonnie O. Ingram
Microbiology and Cell Science

Kathryn Beaty Ivey
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Herschel D. Johnson
Biology

Howard M. Johnson
Microbiology and Cell Science

Byung-Ho Kang
Microbiology and Cell Science

Gail P. Kauwell
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Marc Kramer
Soil and Water Science

Jaclyn D. Kropp
Food and Resource Economics

Muthusami Kumaran
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Anne E. Mathews
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Anne Marie Mattison
Food and Resource Economics

Eric McLamore
Agricultural and Biological
Engineering

Diane W. Mealo
Mid-Florida Research and Education
Center

Michael P. Moulton
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Brian E. Myers
Agricultural Education and
Communication

Wendell A. Porter
Agricultural and Biological
Engineering

Karla P. Shelnuttt
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Suzanna D. Smith
Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

William E. Spencer Jr.
Biology

Marilyn E. Swisher

Family, Youth and Community
Sciences

Saundra H. TenBroeck
Animal Sciences

Andrew C. Thoron
Agricultural Education and
Communication

Denis R. Valle
Forest Resources and Conservation

Ariena Hendrika C. VanBruggen
Plant Pathology

Susan E. Webb
Entomology and Nematology

Wendy Rene Williams
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Stephanie Wohlgemuth
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

Lincoln Zotarelli
College of Agricultural and Life
Sciences

UF Distinguished Alumnus Award

Alto A. Straughn

Dr. Alto Straughn, a native Floridian, was born in Walton County in 1934. His childhood years were spent farming, hunting, fishing, and actively participating in two well-known youth organizations—4-H and FFA. He attended the University of Florida, where he was equally active as a student in the Department of Animal Sciences, joining the livestock judging team, working in the department, and conducting sheep research.

After graduating from UF with a master's degree in animal science, he joined UF/IFAS Extension in 1959 as an agent in Marion County. Three years later, Dr. Straughn received a fellowship from the Kellogg Foundation to attend the University of Wisconsin and complete a doctoral degree. He returned to Florida and once again joined UF, this time as an Extension state specialist. He rose rapidly through the ranks and became director of program evaluation and organizational development in 1971. He was instrumental in developing statewide planning and reporting systems and was a pioneer in using computers to enhance Extension's response to client needs.

Dr. Straughn never lost his love of farming. When he retired from UF/IFAS in 1989, he became a full-time farmer. He has been very successful in developing beef cattle, blueberry, watermelon, and timber farming operations. Dr. Straughn's leadership and his forward-thinking vision in blueberry production have been vital to the success of Florida's blueberry industry. He has worked closely with UF/IFAS researchers to conduct blueberry variety trials and demonstrate new production technologies, resulting in about 20% of all the blueberries in Florida. He was also the first North Florida farmer to produce seedless watermelons on a large scale.



Dr. Straughn and his wife Patrecia have a long history of philanthropy. They have been University of Florida Foundation donors since 1984. Gifts to UF/IFAS Extension include the Alto Straughn 4-H Extension Professional and Enhancement Award and the Alto and Patrecia Straughn Extension Educational Improvement Award. He has also funded graduate students for research in the fields of apiculture, plant pathology, and food and nutrition. Their most recent gift is the Straughn Extension Professional Development Center, which was dedicated on January 12, 2012.

CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Victor William Harris

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

The quality, passion, and commitment Dr. Victor Harris brings to the classroom is evident in his pedagogical methods, his course evaluations and the testimony of his current and former students. As an assistant professor in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Dr. Harris utilizes active learning strategies and practical application of concepts to challenge students and enhance their critical thinking skills. Dr. Harris' work in teaching, research, and Extension is integrated around the constructs of couple and relationship research as well as couple and relationship education.



Committed to the scholarship of teaching and learning, Dr. Harris has developed his own instructional model (Attention, Interact, Apply, Invite – Fact, Think, Feel, Do) used in the classroom and through his Extension work. He has employed several interactive lessons to illustrate interpersonal relationship concepts using this model, such as the “Love Bucket” activity. “I hadn’t realized how often arguments can be resolved civilly, or how true causes of stress can be linked to an empty ‘love bucket,’” said one of Dr. Harris’ students. “That term is one I have found to be endearing and still use for my daily life.” To teach students about diversity in family, couple, parenting, and religious practices across cultures, Dr. Harris developed a study abroad program in East Germany and Poland.

Facilitating trust among his students is a key tenant to Dr. Harris’ teaching philosophy. He believes in his students’ abilities to change themselves and by changing themselves, changing the world. “Dr. Harris is one of the few college professors I have encountered who takes time to learn his students’ names and get to know them as people,” said one of Dr. Harris’ students. His patient, caring demeanor and enthusiasm for his subject matter have made a positive impact on students and their career goals.

Anne Mathews

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

As a registered dietitian, Dr. Anne Mathews believes students, like patients, should be considered and respected as individuals. This philosophy is important to her while teaching nutrition since a person’s diet is closely tied to their health, personal tastes, family, culture, and core values. An assistant professor in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, Dr. Mathews has added new methods of making course content relevant in the classroom. Students reported her inclusion of current scientific literature and case studies have added to their understanding of nutritional science material that prepares them for graduate or medical/dental school.



Dr. Mathews created a new Preventative Health Experience course for undergraduates with a simultaneous graduate course, Supervised Teaching in Preventative Health Experience. The discussion-based courses provide students with opportunities to practice counseling and teaching skills in real world scenarios. In addition to these courses, Dr. Mathews has developed additional classes as part of a multistate research project funded by the USDA, known as Get FRUVED. This project has allowed more than 100 students to participate as peer mentors to freshmen who want to develop a healthier diet, increase physical activity, and improve stress management skills. More students outside of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are taking Dr. Mathews’ courses as her outstanding teaching skills are gaining reputation across campus.

Dr. Mathews’ peers describe her as a “creative and engaging educator who connects well with her students.” She consistently provides opportunities for undergraduates to develop critical thinking skills, and has mentored 13 students in completing undergraduate thesis projects as well as provided more than 175 others with direct research experience opportunities. “Dr. Mathews is far more than a teacher,” said one of her former undergraduate students who is now pursuing a Ph.D. “She is a devoted mentor, accomplished researcher, outstanding leader, and an absolute inspiration to all who know her.”

CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

Monika Oli

Undergraduate Adviser of the Year



A multitude of past experiences as researcher, inventor, author, and entrepreneur have played a role in how senior lecturer Dr. Monika Oli advises and mentors students in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Science. She integrates small research projects into her introductory lab courses, which several students have continued into other classes. One of Dr. Oli's colleagues said her "ability to create student interest in the sciences through innovative, hands-on instruction has a powerful mentoring impact on their career decisions."

Dr. Oli's leadership, vision, and energy for curriculum development have made significant contributions in course selections available to students to show them the multitude of career opportunities outside of academia or healthcare. She has created a career development seminar for students within the major that incorporates information and skills beneficial to students outside of the lab. Students say she goes out of her way to help them, and even their children. Dr. Oli mentored one student's daughter through a middle school science fair project. Her teaching and advising accomplishments include numerous awards, such as UF Teacher of the Year and a NACTA Educator Award.

Dr. Oli views mentoring as a process of nurturing the personal and professional development of her students to help them achieve their life's aspirations and goals. Dr. Oli's door is always open to students. When walking down the hall of the Microbiology and Cell Science building, it is common to encounter a line of students waiting their turn for her assistance. She has established a peer mentoring system to connect former students with current ones to guide them in their career adventures. As a testament to her success as an adviser, Dr. Oli received 19 letters of recommendation from her former students for this award. Some of the most common words students used to describe Dr. Oli's mentorship are "patient," "understanding," and "enthusiastic."

Robin Snyder

Undergraduate Adviser of the Year



Robin Snyder appreciates that there is no "one size fits all" solution while working with students as the academic adviser for the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE). She follows the advising philosophy that the more she knows her students the easier it is to find what motivates and challenges them. Snyder believes each student deserves an open mind, a listening ear, and an empathetic heart tempered with sound advice and choices. Students know she is their advocate, regardless of the issue.

Snyder was part of the committee assembled to create the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) Advising Council, due to her work on the team who started the College of Engineering Advising Council. This initiative enables dissemination of information among advisers, facilitating collaboration, innovation and improvement. Snyder began the ABE blog in 2012, which has since turned into the first spot undergraduate students look for information about scholarships and internships. Her colleagues admire her problem-solving acumen, and how she always looks for ways to come up with the best solution. Snyder has received several IFAS awards including two Superior Accomplishment awards and two Silver Image awards. Most recently, she was named Professional Adviser of the Year in the College of Engineering in 2014.

A former student of Snyder's who transferred into CALS said, "She was one of the most caring and accepting people I had dealt with while here at UF. Because Robin took the time to build a relationship with me, she made sure I was taking the right combination of courses each semester to keep me motivated in the classroom without putting too much stress on my school-work balance. I can truly credit Robin with refocusing me on school and giving me the tools I needed to succeed and graduate."

CALS Teaching and Advising Award Recipients

John Driver

Graduate Teacher/Adviser of the Year

One of the main qualities students notice in Dr. John Driver is his devotion to teaching and sharing knowledge with his students. Leading by example is his teaching philosophy. He works alongside his students, giving them the support they need to quickly become independent and act on their own ideas. Dr. Driver believes in the diffusion of knowledge across campus as well as the professional development of his students, which is why he introduces them to other researchers at UF and encourages them to share their research results with a variety of local and international audiences. Students describe his teaching style as “resourceful and serene, allowing him to adapt the topic according to the students’ immunology background and learning pace.”

Dr. Driver joined the Department of Animal Sciences as an assistant professor five years ago to establish a research program on mitigating infectious diseases in food animals. His valuable contributions to the graduate teaching program include developing a livestock immunology course, offering an Immunology Journal Club, and hosting a seminar series through the Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology (AMCB) graduate program. As co-director of AMCB, Dr. Driver is actively engaged in shaping this graduate program and developing future faculty.

Currently, Dr. Driver mentors three graduate students and serves on committees of 25 other students, reflecting the value others see in his expertise. Dr. Driver’s students say he has a genuine, enthusiastic commitment to developing the next generation of emerging scientists. His colleagues say his well-guided, prepared students will go far in large measure due to his mentorship. Dr. Driver makes students his priority, even if they aren’t in his department. “Dr. Driver treated me as his own student,” said one nutritional sciences Ph.D. student. “He devoted his time and extraordinary effort in helping me develop profound knowledge and competency. I was so impressed with his excellent teaching and mentoring ability that I had to register for a supervised research class (with him).”



Michael Vickers

Jack L. Fry Award for Teaching Excellence

Entomology and Nematology Ph.D. student Michael Vickers is this year’s recipient of the Jack L. Fry Excellence in Teaching award for a graduate student. The award is named for the former assistant dean for graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and honors an outstanding graduate student who has excelled in classroom or laboratory teaching.

As the supervisory teaching assistant for the introductory entomology laboratory sections, Michael has mentored not only his students, but the four other graduate teaching assistants as well. He believes information is best learned through a teacher’s enthusiasm and excitement for course material. Michael’s students often describe him as the “best TA at UF.” Outdoor field trips and “teach me” moments in his course curriculum bring lessons to life for Michael’s students. During roach dissection labs, Michael can be found donning a roach costume. One student said Michael’s hands-on assignments, such as insect collection in the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory and Santa Fe River, were particularly effective teaching lessons. Another student shared how Michael helped her overcome her fear of insects through his class.

Michael was specifically recruited for his supervisory teaching assistantship in the department because of his previous teaching experience at Clemson University while earning his M.S. degree. At Clemson, he taught the introductory biology laboratory class, and assisted in teaching two laboratory courses as an undergraduate at Millikin University. In observing Michael’s classes, his research adviser said she “was quite impressed with how he tackled (student) questions and his ability to explain complex concepts to his students in an accessible way. Mike sets very high standards for himself and places a high priority on the quality of his teaching and this clearly pays off for his students.”



Outstanding Students

Alessandra Della Porta

Alumni & Friends Leadership Award



Alessandra Della Porta is honored today as the recipient of the CALS Alumni and Friends Leadership Award. This award recognizes an outstanding senior who exemplifies leadership, scholastic achievement and citizenship. The award is presented to a student who has a high degree of leadership in departmental or college organizations and supports the agriculture, natural resource and life science industries.

Alessandra is a Microbiology and Cell Science major from Ponde Vedra Beach, Fla. She will receive a certificate in Medical Anthropology and graduates as a CALS Honors Scholar, completing a thesis on surgical site infections.

During her time at UF, Alessandra has exhibited a dedication to the medical profession through her volunteer service with the UF Health Shands Hospital “No One Dies Alone” program, which provides patients who are near death with a companion. Alessandra was selected for the University Scholars program to do research at the UF College of Medicine. She also completed a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. Her other extracurricular activities included volunteering with the Northeast Florida American Red Cross, completing more than 100 hours shadowing UF physicians, and traveling to the Dominican Republic for a medical service trip.

As a member of Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority, Alessandra spent the last year as president of the organization after a previous year of serving as vice president. She also plays a leadership role on the Center for Undergraduate Research Board of Students and holds a weekly science club at both P.K. Yonge and Abraham Lincoln Middle School. “Alessandra has given back to the wider Gainesville community and has brought her love of science to this group of young students to encourage their own interest in STEM,” said Anne Donnelly, director of the UF Center for Undergraduate Research. “She is an exceptional student who has gone beyond the typical undergraduate experience.”

Chase Carlos Labiste

Emelie Matthews Award of Excellence



Chase Labiste is honored today as the recipient of the Emelie L. Matthews Award of Excellence, presented to an outstanding senior in the college who came to UF as a transfer student. Chase graduates today with a degree in Microbiology and Cell Science and is from Miami, Fla.

Academically, Chase has shown his commitment to excellence and success by employing his knowledge and leadership skills gained from real life experiences. His supervisors and professors have provided glowing remarks on Chase’s leadership abilities and responsibilities. IFAS professor Dr. William Gurley said, “Chase has the integrity, self-confidence, academic preparation and maturity to inspire others to accomplish difficult tasks as a team.”

During his time at UF, Chase worked in neurology and pathology labs at the UF Diabetes Institute and the UF McKnight Brain Institute. He was a teaching assistant under Dr. Gurley in the Molecular Genetics course supervising 120 students weekly through the course’s Human Genome Project activities. In addition, Chase has worked extensively to create a novel curriculum to address the links between gut and brain health for the Gainesville Boys and Girls Club, which he will lead in summer 2017.

Chase earned the UF President’s Volunteer Service Award for the completion of more than 400 service hours at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Lutecia Pereira, a research associate at the center, said Chase “is a solution-oriented person, who was frequently able to come up with wise approaches to tasks. Chase demonstrates a high degree of initiative.”

IFAS senior lecturer and undergraduate coordinator Dr. Monika Oli said, “Chase is a natural leader who is always willing and eager to make positive changes in his environment and the community.” Chase plans to continue to work as a humanitarian with communities in Florida. A long-term goal of Chase’s is to conduct research that will lead to better treatment for people who are suffering from neurological or diabetic conditions.

Outstanding Students

Esther Olosoji

Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence

Esther Olosoji, a resident of Winter Haven, Fla., graduates today as a dual major in Food Science and Human Nutrition and Microbiology and Cell Science. Born in Sokoto, Nigeria, Esther immigrated to the United States as a child. Today, she is honored as the recipient of the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence Award. Named after the late Dr. Larry J. Connor, a former dean of the college, this award recognizes an outstanding senior who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record, has demonstrated a high degree of leadership, and has contributed to and fostered diversity within the student body and society.

Esther began her research experience as a freshman at UF. She conducted research in the Department of Animal Sciences where she studied the use of spices as an alternative to antibiotics. Esther was accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program in 2015 and has since been the president of the McNair Ambassadors. Her research background led her to become involved with the Center for Undergraduate Research Board of Students, where she served as the director of workshops. Esther has held several undergraduate teaching assistantships in the Microbiology and Cell Science Department.

With a heart for service, Esther volunteers at GRACE Marketplace with one of her mentors, Dr. Anna Khanna, to provide free neurological health services to the homeless population in Gainesville. “Esther has a great knack for getting complicated things done quietly and quickly,” said professor and Microbiology and Cell Science Department chair Eric Triplett. “She is truly a very special and well-rounded individual. Esther is a great asset to our university. There is no question in my mind that she will go far in life.”

During her time at UF, Esther worked as an IT consultant for the Microbiology and Cell Science Department and was a member of both Alpha Zeta Agricultural Honors Fraternity and Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. After graduation, Esther will apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs to focus on microbiology and immunology.



Adriana Luisa Della Porta

J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence

Adriana Della Porta, a Microbiology and Cell Science major from Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., is honored today as the recipient of the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Award. The award is named after Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, a former UF provost for agriculture and past UF president. The award is bestowed upon an outstanding student who has achieved a distinguished scholarship record and demonstrated a high degree of leadership.

Adriana's extensive leadership experiences extend throughout UF. During her time at the university, she has served as a CALS Ambassador and a member of the Dean of Students Office Student Conduct Committee. Adriana is a member of Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority and past CALS Florida Youth Institute counselor.

With a desire to serve her community, Adriana volunteered as a tutor in the UF Broward Teaching Center and as a teaching assistant for the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She served as lead coordinating volunteer for the UF Health Shands Hospital “No One Dies Alone” program, which provides patients who are near death with a companion. Adriana also completed more than 115 hours of service to UF Health Shands Hospital in the Burn Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Radiology Department.

In addition to her volunteer work, Adriana conducts research funded by the NSF Plant Genome Research Project for the Department of Horticultural Sciences and is involved with the Challenge 2050 Project. In her research, she has explored classic breeding techniques, conducted phenotypic analyses and facilitated gene expression and sequencing for molecular genetics studies. Adriana has been co-first-author on two research presentations, and continues to travel to the Dominican Republic for medical service trips.



Outstanding Students

John Hargrove

Jimmy G. Cheek Medal of Excellence



Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Ph.D. candidate John Hargrove is this year's recipient of the Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence. Named after a former dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and former senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, the award recognizes an outstanding graduate student who demonstrates high academic potential and achievement, leadership and community involvement, and commitment to and passion for his or her chosen field of study.

John earned his master's degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from UF, and his bachelor of science in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from the University of Washington. According to John's supervisory committee chair, he has "been one of the most impressive" students the professor has met in the biological sciences at UF. John has published 12 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and has presented his research regionally, nationally and internationally. Throughout the course of his study, John has built a strong research relationship with scientists from Japan and South Africa.

John has sought out opportunities to teach, including co-developing and co-instructing a graduate course. He insists on holding extra review sessions for students, and tutors undergraduates studying genetics, even when he is not a TA for the class. John has mentored 15 students at the graduate, undergraduate and IFAS intern levels.

Active in IFAS Extension work, John provided multiple presentations to state government agencies, private organizations and the public. He has developed lesson plans for local area elementary and middle schools on the topics of fish ecology, invasive species and food webs. In addition to his presentations and teachings, John volunteers as a science fair judge and through arts programs for Caleb's Pitch at UF Health Shands Hospital. "I can think of no student who is more deserving of this prestigious honor," said Dr. Mike Allen, director of the IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station.

Special Recognition

Jose Alvarez

Commencement Speaker



Jose Alvarez, a native of Jennings, Fla., will graduate today with a Bachelor of Science in Family, Youth and Community Sciences and a minor in Nonprofit Organizational Leadership; his focus is in youth development. Jose was selected to present the Commencement address to our graduating students.

Jose is a member of Savant Leadership Honorary (The University of Florida's most progressive leadership honorary), Grateful Gator Day Student Committee and the University of Florida's Boys and Girls Club. He is also director of the Outstanding First-Year Leadership Award, which seeks to recognize outstanding first-year students who have gone above and beyond to make an impact on the University of Florida campus and the Gainesville community.

The past two summers, Jose has devoted his time to working with youth across the state of Florida. He worked as a tutor and assistant teacher for the Alachua Multi-County Migrant Education Program and served as a counselor for the inaugural CALS Florida Youth Institute (FYI) program in addition to interning with the Alachua County Boys and Girls Club.

Jose serves as an advocate, a mentor and a speaker for local elementary, middle and high school students in North Florida. Beginning May 26, he will serve as the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program. He will also pursue a master's in Educational Leadership and Policy. In the long term, Jose hopes to become Superintendent of Schools in Hamilton County, one of the top 10 poorest counties in Florida and his home county.

Outside of academics, Jose is the co-founder of the iReflect Movement, an organization that encourages, empowers and edifies youth of North Florida through mentorship, community partnerships, special events and advocacy. Jose enjoys hanging out with friends, laughing, being a "big kid" while playing with the children in his community and, most importantly, encouraging those around him.

UF

2017 SPRING
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Shelton T. Rice

Tyler Jennings Winburn

MASTER OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES

Christopher L. McTurnan

Charlotte E. Nowak

Jessica L. Pyle

Jedidiah Silas Thompson

Jaclyn A. Wilson

MASTER OF FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

James Ryan LaValle

Lauren Levitt

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Noha Abdel Mottaleb
Soil and Water Science

Leah Lomvula Adam
Forest Resources and Conservation

Ahmad J. Ahmad
Microbiology and Cell Science

Samantha Lindsey Amos
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jennifer G. Bearden
Soil and Water Science

Jonathan Blake Benskin
Microbiology and Cell Science

Vanessa Audrey Berthoumieux
Food Science and Human Nutrition

LaShawn M. Blakely
Microbiology and Cell Science

Tori Rae Bradley
Food and Resource Economics

Denise Ann Breen
Soil and Water Science

Patricia Candace Brewster
Microbiology and Cell Science

Katherine Sue Britt
Forest Resources and Conservation

Karen Zilliox Brown
Forest Resources and Conservation

Rachel Cook Bullock
Microbiology and Cell Science

Gilma Xiomara Castillo Licona
Horticultural Sciences

Holly Michelle Chastain
Microbiology and Cell Science

Sarah Maryam Choudhry
Microbiology and Cell Science

Kevin P. Church
Forest Resources and Conservation

Carolina Collazos
Animal Sciences

Michele Lindsay Curts
Agricultural Education and Communication

Carter S. Cyr
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Erick Rodrigo da Silva Santos
Agronomy

Jordan J. Dale
Microbiology and Cell Science

Samantha L. Dame
Forest Resources and Conservation

Mitchell L. Davis
Agricultural Education and Communication

Leandre Casey Dawes-Vaeth
Forest Resources and Conservation

Ashley Margaret De Jong
Agricultural Education and Communication

Chloe Carolyn Duffy
Microbiology and Cell Science

Aseel El Zein
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Thiago Fachetti Fabris
Animal Sciences

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Andrew R. Gatewood <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	David Mirabedini Jaramillo <i>Agronomy</i>	Jacquelyn Kay Nettles <i>Family, Youth and Community Sciences</i>
Deanna Eileen Glass <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Antonio Diego Alejandro Juárez-Sánchez <i>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation</i>	Hoang V. Nguyen <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Jason Elliot Griffin <i>Agricultural and Biological Engineering</i>	Ashley Legare Kall <i>Family, Youth and Community Sciences</i>	Kelli Erin O'Donnell <i>Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i>
Jing Guo <i>Food Science and Human Nutrition</i>	Heather Renee Keown <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Sarah Mohammed Obaid <i>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation</i>
Kaley C. Hanrahan <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Aaron Arthur Kinty <i>Soil and Water Science</i>	Adeola Christianah Ogunade <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>
Kara Lynn Harders <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>	Jamie Paige Klaben <i>Food Science and Human Nutrition</i>	Nicola Oosthuizen <i>Animal Sciences</i>
Paul Michael Hein <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Kevin Wesley Kloda <i>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation</i>	Adam O. Orndorff <i>Soil and Water Science</i>
Hermudananto <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Adam Z. Koller <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Claudia Alejandra Paez Escudero <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>
Mary Elizabeth Hoffman <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Andrew W. Land <i>Soil and Water Science</i>	Delaney Erin Pfister <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>
Sarah E. Holley <i>Food and Resource Economics</i>	Meghan Elizabeth Lauer <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Michael B. Poindexter <i>Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology</i>
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Mohammad Maksud Morshed Hossain <i>Agronomy</i>	Samantha Danielle Loutzenhiser <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Michael T. Pshar III <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>
Victoria Lawrence Houghton <i>Family, Youth and Community Sciences</i>	Mohannad Waleed Malas <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Sai Qiu <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>
Isaiah Joe Hoyer <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>	Octavio Augusto Menocal Sandoval <i>Entomology and Nematology</i>	Raychel Drew Rabon <i>Agricultural Education and Communication</i>
Mark Duane Hughes Jr. <i>Forest Resources and Conservation</i>	Jennifer Cletzer Miller <i>Agronomy</i>	Eron R. Raines <i>Soil and Water Science</i>
Taylor Cameron Hull <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Joyce C. Morales Aparicio <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	Gerald W. Renick <i>Horticultural Sciences- Environmental Horticulture</i>
	Chanel Alexis Mosby-Haundrup <i>Microbiology and Cell Science</i>	

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Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Daniela Rivero Mendoza
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Charles Wesley Robertson
Entomology and Nematology

Andrew R. Scatizzi
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Tracee Marie Schiebel
*Agricultural Education and
Communication*

Amanda P. Stafford
*Family, Youth and Community
Sciences*

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Kristen Coleen Stevens
Entomology and Nematology

Iris Lee Strzyzewski
Entomology and Nematology

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Forest Resources and Conservation

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Microbiology and Cell Science

Anastasia E. Vaccaro
Agronomy

Kara McKay Verge
Soil and Water Science

Yuxuan Wan
Forest Resources and Conservation

Joshua D. Wood
Agronomy

Lauren Elizabeth Woolley
Microbiology and Cell Science

Xiaodong Xu
Food Science and Human Nutrition

Ke Zhang
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Xiaoyu Zhang
Food Science and Human Nutrition

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 *Quincy Decatur Kolp
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 *Chandni B. Patel
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*Allison Marie Rudolph
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Mason H. Russo
*Priya Sabharwal
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*Kimberly A. Sapp
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Stephen Brantley Schirard
Elaina Lillian Schmidt
*Jeffrey Thomas Schmidt
*Dakota M. Schoettle
*Raquel E. Schoneck
Samantha M. Schulz
*Adam B. Schwartz
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Marianne Gonzalez Silva
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Ruder Arturo Singh
Samantha Nicole Skinner

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*Kerrin E. Toner
Rebecca J. Toutoungi
Dalton C. Townsend
Bachdang Hoang Tran
***Nguyen Minh Hanh Tran
Molly Eileen Traugott
Allyson Kate Trimble
***Adam Joshua Tuchinsky
Scott Christopher Turner
*Lindsay Michele Elizabeth Underhill
Francisca Unger
Alexa C. Utter
*Ramsey Marie Valdes
Paul Nicholas Valletta

*Fernanda A. Vargas Vedia
*Mykolas Varkalis
*Laura Nicoll Varon
*Brooke Kelley Vaughn
Juan Sebastian Velasco
Marisa N. Villalon
*Cara Nicole Vogel
*Mary Sarah Vogel
*Kayla Marie Volk
Tony Nguyen Vu
*Steven Noell Wagner II
Evan Storm Waite
Alyssa C. Walker
Cara Elaine Walkover
*Erica Ashley Walters
*Kendall P. Wasselle
Sara Alexis Watkins
Kyler R. Watts
Haley Elizabeth Webb
Jacob Taylor Weiderman
**Sydney A. Weir
***Amanda S. Weissman
*Thomas Erik Werner
Melissa R. Werremeyer
Lucas C. Whalen
Codie N. Whitehead
Jacob Clay Whitehead
Brant Andrew Wickersham
Lauren Michelle Williams
*Morgan Lee Williams
*Nicollette Charice Williams
Roger P. Williams Jr.
*Clayton Martin Willis
*Erica Jean Winstead
*Mallory Sara Wood
Janell Nicole Woods
*Raymond B. Worthington II
*Austin Gregory Wynn
*Nikki Elizabeth Yager
*Michelle Ungyue Yi
*Gordon R. Yoder
Corey M. Young
Brandy Nicole Zagrocki
Victor A. Zayas
Yanira Luisa Zelaya
Maria Mercedes Zorrilla
Tiffany Amber Zutten

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVA-

Zachary R. Allen
Jessica Marie Baldwin
Rebecca Blazquez
*Savannah Loretta Cain
Carlos D. Canal
Dylan J. Carlson
Kelly Elizabeth Colvin
***Carson Michelle Cooper
*Charles Michael Cooper Jr.
Holden Carl Gable

***Margaret Elise Gullion
Sarah Katherine Kaufman
Kotryna Klizentyte
*Joseph T. Littell
Larsen Watts McBride
*John Thomas McUmbert
***Bianca J. Moreno
Jeremy David Munn

Edward P. O'Daniels Jr.
*Talon B. Rolling
*Karolina D. Sanchewska
Brian W. Schumann
Clair H. Shindelman
McKenzie Catherine Stewart
Lenord Jamal White

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOMATICS

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Tyler A. Beekhoo
*Felipe M. Carvalho

Edith Ortiz Cooper
Jeremy A. Hewitt
David Lee Lammers

Leah Maria Metcalf

THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

THOMAS FRAZIER, DIRECTOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

*Kamran Syed Ali
Nicholas Anthony Andreacchio
Isabella M. Calloni

*Jordana S. Cutajar
Chloe Noelle O'Haire

*Emily Kay Schmidt
*Promy Tabassum

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Iqra Ahmed
Kylie Shannon Auble
***Bridget N. Chalifour
*Jenna Marie Curtis

*Hannah A. Harms
Avalon Isabel Hoek Spaans
*Valerie Christina Muenker
*Aadil Muhammad

Maegan Ailene Muir
Sophie E. Pacelko
*Hannah Elisabeth Van Horn
Mary Vasilevsky
**Tien Luo Ying Weber



CHAIN OF OFFICE

This custom-made ornament is worn with the president's regalia, symbolizing the authority and responsibilities of the office. The chain is engraved with the names and service years of the university presidents. The medallion's centerpiece is a 1.3-carat diamond.

ACADEMIC MACE

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the mace symbolizes strength and authority. The UF ceremonial mace was created for the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2003. The 70-inch staff features an alligator sitting atop a globe. The four pillars supporting the globe represent the four original colleges: Agriculture, Engineering, Law, and Liberal Arts. The staff is carved from cherry wood. The university's chief marshal, who leads all academic processions, carries the mace.



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA TASSELS

Fisher School of Accounting
 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
 College of the Arts
 M.E. Rinker Sr. School of Construction Management
 Warrington College of Business
 Heavener School of Business
 College of Dentistry
 College of Design, Construction and Planning
 College of Education
 Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
 The Graduate School
 College of Health and Human Performance
 College of Journalism and Communications
 Fredric G. Levin College of Law
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arts
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sciences
 College of Medicine
 College of Nursing
 College of Pharmacy
 College of Public Health and Health Professions
 College of Veterinary Medicine



Aqua
 Maize
 Brown
 Burnt Orange and Opal
 Drab
 Drab
 Lilac
 Blue Violet
 Light Blue
 Orange
 Black
 Sage Green
 Black and White
 Purple
 White
 Gold Yellow
 Green
 Apricot
 Olive Green
 Salmon
 Gray

Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed to the graduate's permanent home mailing address in June 2017.

Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty at today's commencement ceremonies evolved from a style of dress worn by members of guilds and religious orders in medieval times. The academic gown is worn by individuals who have earned a degree in higher education. In addition, hoods are worn by graduate degree candidates, but not by undergraduate degree candidates.

At the University of Florida, the lining of the hood has a blue chevron on an orange background to represent the university colors. University faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater.

The velvet edging on the academic hood is the color that represents the particular degree held by the wearer. Agricultural and Life Sciences and Forest Resources and Conservation share maize edging; Design, Construction and Planning and Building Construction are blue violet; Audiology degrees have colonial blue edging; Business Administration and Accounting are drab; Dentistry is lilac; Education is light blue; Engineering degrees are represented by orange edging; Fine Arts degrees have brown edging; Health and Human Performance is sage green; Journalism and Communications is garnet; Law is purple; Liberal Arts is white and Liberal Sciences is gold yellow; Medicine is green; Music is pink; Natural Resources and Environment is antique gold; Nursing is apricot; Doctor of Pharmacy is olive; Philosophy is royal blue; Public Health degrees have salmon pink edging; Rehabilitation Counseling degrees have Nile green edging; and Veterinary Medicine is gray.



Distinctions among sleeves indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates a bachelor's degree, while a long, closed sleeve with a slit near the upper part of the arm designates a master's degree. A round, open sleeve identifies a doctoral degree.

The doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including cross bars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates' caps indicate a candidate's school or college.

The undergraduate costume also may include honors cords. Each orange and blue pair of cords corresponds to a level of honors: three pairs of cords represent graduation with *summa cum laude* recognition, two pairs represent *magna cum laude* recognition, and one pair represents *cum laude* recognition. Criteria for earning honors vary by college. Students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) earn *cum laude* if their upper-division G.P.A. is 3.5 or higher. Achieving *magna cum laude* requires a 3.75 upper-division G.P.A. and an independent project leading to an honors thesis while *summa cum laude* requires a 3.85 upper-division G.P.A. and an honors thesis. The honors designations in the program are tentative and subject to final grades. Honors cords are draped down the front of the academic gown. Anderson Scholars will be wearing an orange and blue ribboned medallion, which is awarded to juniors universitywide for academic excellence. CALs students who receive the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence, Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence, or Emelie Matthews Award of Excellence receive a medal that may be worn at commencement.

Student Recognition

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Honors Program

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is the only college at the University of Florida that provides a formal upper-division honors experience for its students. CALS students with grade point averages of 3.75 or above are invited to join by the Dean. Successful completion of the program requires four honors courses, an honors thesis, and an upper-division G.P.A. of 3.75 or greater. Academically, honors students rank in the upper 3% of all CALS students. The following graduating seniors are recognized as CALS Honors Scholars and will receive a medallion and a university certificate:

Sara Baker	Maya Halaly	Megan Stein
John Chulick	Jessica Hong	Alexandra Swets
Ian Cooney	Kimberly Kullman	Nguyen Tran
Carson Cooper	Dhwani Kumar	Adam Tuchinsky
Alessandra Della Porta	Tannyr Lamica	Tien Weber
Alexa Engel	Bianca Moreno	Sydney Weir
Vanessa Fernandez	Hutson Rapier	Amanda Weissman

University of Florida Alumni Association Outstanding Leader Awards

Each semester, the UFAA recognizes graduating Gators who exemplify leadership. This semester, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is pleased to honor two students receiving honorable mention awards in this category.

Jose Alvarez - Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Danielle Domingo - Family, Youth and Community Sciences

Alumni & Friends

As a graduate of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) you will automatically become a part of the CALS Alumni & Friends (CALSAF) organization. CALSAF is affiliated with the University of Florida Alumni Association and fosters a spirit of loyalty and fraternity among graduates, former students and friends of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

CALS Alumni & Friends members strive to build a strong organization to promote the college's academic programs, enhance the experience of current students and provide programming that allows alumni and friends to network with other members of the Gator Nation.

You may choose to participate in one of the events hosted by CALSAF including the TailGATOR barbecue and regional Gator Gatherings. CALSAF relies on alumni volunteers for a variety of activities including recruiting students, hosting alumni events and mentoring current students.

To learn more about the CALS Alumni & Friends organization or inquire about becoming an alumni volunteer, please visit www.cals.ufl.edu, call (352) 392-1963 or email alumni@cals.ufl.edu.



What Makes a University Great?

Some interesting facts about the University of Florida

Educational Excellence

UF is consistently ranked among the nation's top universities: No. 14 in U.S. News & World Report "Top Public Universities" (2016); No. 2 on the Forbes' list of Best Value Public Universities (2016); No. 1 on Value Colleges' list of Top 50 Best Value Colleges (2016); and No. 8 on the Times Higher Education list of best universities for employers to find new hires.

Faculty

- UF has nearly 5,000 faculty members with distinguished records in teaching, research and service, including 36 Eminent Scholar chairs and 44 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, the Institute of Medicine or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA's top award for research, and the Smithsonian Institution's conservation award.

Students

- Ninety-seven percent of incoming freshmen score above the national average (1500/21) on standardized exams. Students admitted for the fall 2017 freshman class had an average 4.4 GPA and an average SAT score of 1930.
- More than 1,285 International Baccalaureate students were enrolled in UF in March 2016. The freshman retention rate of 96 percent is among the highest in the country.
- Among AAU public universities, UF ranked first in master's degrees and second in bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanic students in 2014.
- Sixty-seven percent of UF full-time freshmen graduate in four years (2011-12 cohort), and 87 percent of UF freshmen graduate within six years (2009-10 cohort).
- Fifty-seven percent of UF graduates leave the university with no student-loan debt. For the remaining students, their average indebtedness is about \$21,603, as compared with the national average of over \$30,000 (2014-15).

