



A First For Infants

ORLANDO, Fla. — Infants at risk of developing diabetes will soon have a better chance at early detection and treatment, thanks to an American Diabetes Association and University of Florida plan to establish the nation's first ongoing state-wide screening program. The voluntary program is being made possible through a \$10 million commitment from the association to create an endowment over five years to fund the program to be based at the University of Florida College of Medicine, officials announced today. The program is expected to be launched within a year. See full story at [http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2002news/diabetes\\$10mill.htm](http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2002news/diabetes$10mill.htm)

Ready To Buy Again

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Consumer confidence made a modest gain in December despite disappointing holiday retail sales, reflecting optimism about the progress of the war in Afghanistan, University of Florida economists said Thursday. The preliminary index rose two points to 91 in December, said Chris McCarty, director of UF's survey research center at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/cc1201.htm>

A Bug's Life

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — When it comes to stopping one of the most destructive insect pests in Florida, it's a bug-eat-bug world. To control the Diaprepes root weevil on various crops, a University of Florida entomologist has imported three tiny wasps from the Caribbean and released them in five South Florida counties. Early tests indicate the wasps are providing effective control of the weevil without pesticides. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/wasps.htm>

Surfing In The Sun

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Civil engineering students can tap it as part of their training in outdoor surveying. Veterinary students could use it to search through disease databases as they examine animals in the field. University of Florida students can now go online outdoors. As part of UF's ongoing Wireless Campus Initiative, many gathering spots and outdoor areas on campus — including centrally located Turlington Plaza — now provide wireless access to the Internet. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/wirelesscampus.htm>

At A Glance...

- The Journal of Criminal Justice ranked UF criminologist Alex Piquero No. 1 among more than 3,000 of his peers worldwide.
- Asian Studies Professor Michael Tsin has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Freeman Foundation. A large focus of the proposal is on East Asian Literature, History and Language and will be the heart of the bachelor's degree in Asian Studies in which students take courses in Chinese and Japanese History, have proficiency in an East Asian Language and take elective courses ranging from Buddhism to contemporary Asian film studies.
- * Tim Shepherd, a UF doctoral candidate in neuroscience, has won a first place national award for his poster presentation of a new method for tracking and defining the death of brain cells following injury. Shepherd was selected from an initial field of 80 graduate students and residents who submitted scientific abstracts and was later declared the top scorer among 18 finalists.
- * President Charles Young discusses the university's future in a Gainesville Sun guest column. See full story at <http://www.gainesvillesun.com/EDITS/articles/2002-01-04speakceyoung.shtml>

Not Mom's Fault

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — It's the deadbeat dad, not the "welfare mom," who is less likely to lift a family off social assistance programs, a new University of Florida study finds. "The woman who has children by more than one man has become a pariah in society," said Barbara Roth, a research analyst for UF's Center for Humanities and Social Science Research who did the study for her doctoral dissertation in political science. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/welfare.htm>

Grandparents Really Are Cool

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Just a generation ago, old people were depicted as grumpy, sometimes doddering and almost always as if their advancing age was something to ignore or avoid. Not today. Of 64 children's books randomly selected from the Books in Print Index and published since 1985, only three presented grandparents negatively, said Robert Beland, a professor in UF's department of recreation, parks and tourism. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/grandparents.htm>

But Does It Drink Beer?

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Christmas is coming to golfers with a lazy streak. University of Florida engineering students have designed a pair of robots that take some of the sweat out of America's favorite outdoor game. Li'l Golfing Buddy finds the tee and sets up the ball for a drive down the fairway. RoboWoods helps on the green, putting the ball into the hole. "If you could buy a \$500 putter, why not buy a \$500 robot that putts the ball?" says Kahlil Khan, the UF computer engineering undergraduate who designed RoboWoods. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/robogolf.htm>

Tapping A Virtual Goldmine

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Here's a nice thought in these economic doldrums: The computer sitting idle at home while you're at work could instead earn you some spare cash. A University of Florida engineering professor is leading an effort to create a way to allow PC owners to sell their machines' computing power online. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/compusell.htm>



AP Photo/University of Florida/IFAS/Eric Zamora

Sandra Wilson, assistant professor of environmental horticulture with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, examines a wine sage plant grown in a greenhouse covered in photo-selective polyethylene film. The new film, which filters out far-red light waves, is used to keep plants compact to ease shipping problems. See full story at <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/2001news/plastics.htm>