Preparing campus for hurricane season

Evacuating residents will head to school

The scoop on crisis communication

Opt for plastic to keep your computer dry

Staying calm in the eye of the storm
Ready to rumble, UNF prepares for hurricane season

BY JULIE WILLIAMS

UNF, take heed. This season’s hurricane outlook isn’t good. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration predicts a 75 percent chance of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, with 13 to 17 named storms, seven to 10 hurricanes and three to five major hurricanes.

Since the majority of these storms are expected to form in August to October, it’s not possible to confidently predict this far in advance how many hurricanes will hit land, exactly where they will hit, or how intense they may be. In any case, one thing is certain: We’d better be ready.

According to Dr. Patrick Welsh, executive director of UNF’s Advanced Weather Information Systems Lab, we’re in an active hurricane phase brought about by changes in currents in the Atlantic Ocean. “For a couple of decades, salt- and temperature-related circulations in the Atlantic have been speeding up and slowing down,” he said. “When we’re in the fast phase, there’s a lot more warm water and it spreads farther north. It’s when the water’s warm that hurricanes form in the ocean, so that’s when we see an increase in activity, like we have now.

“As a meteorologist, I’d be irresponsible if I didn’t say we need to be prepared for hurricanes at all times regardless of the outlook,” Welsh continued. “Hurricanes are a fact of life in the summertime in Florida. This year we expect more hurricanes than normal, so that’s just one more reason to make sure we’re prepared.”

Making sure UNF is prepared for any natural disaster or emergency is the charge of the University’s Crisis Management Team (CMT), which meets as needed to keep the campus apprised of weather developments before and during hurricane season.

The CMT core team has four incident commanders (Richard Crosby, associate vice president of Administration and Finance; Everett Malcolm, associate vice president of Student Affairs; Dr. Mark Workman, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs and Dr. Tom Serwatka, vice president and chief of staff), five advisers (Sharon Ashton, assistant vice president of Public Relations; Matthew Taylor, director of Physical Facilities; Dan Endicott, director of Environmental Health and Safety; Mark Foxworth, chief of the University Police Department; and Lance Taylor, assistant vice president and CIO), and three vice presidents (Dr. Mauricio Gonzalez, vice president of Student and International Affairs; Workman; and Shari Shuman, vice president of Administration and Finance). The support team is currently 41 strong, with representatives from all areas of campus, including the University Center, UPD, Student Medical Services, Physical Facilities, Academic Affairs, Residence Life, Housing Operations, Human Resources, Media Relations, Student Affairs and various administrative offices.

The main objective of the CMT is to ensure that students, faculty and staff are not in harm’s way whenever a crisis threatens the University. When that crisis is an impending hurricane, the team’s core members meet to gather data, speak to experts, bring in members of the support team, analyze the situation, assess the University’s risk factors,
devise a plan and make recommendations to UNF President John Delaney.

“During hurricanes, we’ll primarily work with the core team, but if we’re in a situation where we have to evacuate the campus and it looks like it’s going to be a hit, then we bring in a whole host of people — the Library dean, housing folks, Deb Kaye from Enrollment Services, key people who have to get word out to constituencies — so as we make decisions, it’s kind of a consensus-type decision to some extent,” Crosby said. “Then we report to the president, and he ultimately makes the decision whether we need to cancel classes or evacuate the campus.”

The CMT follows a Crisis Management Plan, which defines hurricane levels, spells out whom to notify, includes various checklists and details action steps that cover everything from establishing a communication plan and mobilizing staff and equipment to informing audiences, coordinating on-the-scene action, physically securing the campus and listing or outlining what to do after a hurricane hits campus.

According to Crosby, the plan is primarily just a set of guidelines that the CMT follows as appropriate. “Every hurricane is unique, so you can’t have a matrix that says when this happens we absolutely evacuate campus, close down and send people to shelters,” he said. “What we do is act in concert with the Duval County EOC [Emergency Operations Center], JU, FCCJ and the Duval County School Board.

“The president will ultimately make that decision whether to cancel classes and/or evacuate campus based on the characteristics of the storm, what’s it doing, whether it’s intensifying, its potential of changing direction and what the other emergency agencies in the city are doing.”

When faced with an active hurricane outlook, “We operate at a little more heightened awareness,” Crosby said. “Last year it was the same scenario. We thought we were going to get clobbered, but there was a weather pattern in force that really sent the hurricanes up the Atlantic Ocean, so the entire United States was very lucky.”

So far, Jacksonville’s been very lucky, avoiding a direct hit from a hurricane for more than 40 years, but Crosby and Endicott point out that there are never any guarantees when it comes to hurricanes. “When we do have a direct hit, there’s going to be a lot of damage that will occur because we haven’t been hit for so long,” Endicott said. “A lot of huge trees are going to come down, as well as infrastructure that hasn’t been tested, so the damage could be much more severe.”

Regardless of the season outlook and the history of hurricane activity in Jacksonville, Crosby said the CMT is ready each and every year to be called into action. “We plan that we’re going to get hit,” he said. “Most of the people who sit around the Crisis Management table have a mindset that this is the one. We go in believing that every one of these storms is very serious.”

In preparation for this year’s hurricane season, Crosby, Endicott and Welsh all agree that UNF employees should be aware of the weather forecasts, prepare hurricane survival kits and perhaps, most importantly, have a plan ready for any circumstance. “I’d suggest to everyone that they pick up the hurricane guides that the local TV stations put out, look at the national weather services’ Web sites and keep an eye on what’s going on,” Welsh said. “It’s something we should all be doing.”
Evacuation a short trip for UNF residents, work for RAs, Staff

By Tom Cain

UNF officials learned some valuable lessons in 1999 when they evacuated the residence halls as Hurricane Floyd barreled through Jacksonville with bowling winds, frog-strangling downpours, flooding and ferocious lightning strikes.

“It opened everybody’s eyes,” said Lynn Hendricks, director of Residence Life. “Back then we’d never had to evacuate students.”

UNF addressed problems faced in 1999 — buses delayed in reaching campus to transport students because of flooded roads, and shelters already full and unable to accept students — by implementing the Adopt-A-Shelter program in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

Should a hurricane cause evacuation of residence halls today, students who have not made other arrangements would be taken in UNF athletic vans to nearby Chets Creek Elementary School, off Hodges Boulevard, approximately five miles from UNF. Chets Creek, which was designed and built to serve as a shelter, is UNF’s Adopt-A-Shelter.

Chets Creek can accommodate about 1,000 evacuees. Hendricks estimates maybe 100 of UNF’s 2,400 residence hall students would need to be evacuated to the shelter if conditions warrant.

In addition to having a shelter so close to the University, Hendricks said another advantage of the Adopt-A-Shelter partnership is that the city will give UNF a four-hour advanced notification about Chets Creek opening as a shelter. UNF students, staff and faculty will know before the media releases the information to the general public.

“I think it’s a great idea,” Hendricks said of the Adopt-A-Shelter program. “We are fortunate to have a partnership with the Red Cross. The Adopt-A-Shelter program affords us the opportunity to plan for campus evacuation and to train our staff on shelter operations and procedures.”

For its role in the partnership, UNF is responsible for running the shelter if a hurricane forces evacuations. The entire Residence Life staff, 60 resident assistants and 10 professional staff members, received Red Cross training for shelter volunteers. Among their duties would be registering people at the shelter, organizing activities, assisting with communication and preparing food.

Kristy Stalbaum, a resident assistant from Inverness, is confident about handling her duties at the shelter should the need arise. “I’d be confident because we have training throughout the year,” she said. “It’s important that we have a safe haven.

Everything we do as RAs is supposed to be geared to helping our residents.”
The mimosa and other exotic pest plants

As a child, I liked the mimosa tree. It has large, fragrant flowers in summer. The spreading canopy provided inviting shade and it was easy to climb. It was fast and easy to grow, too. I can remember, though, my father complaining about mimosa seedlings popping up all over a nearby field. Today, the mimosa is considered to be an exotic pest plant through the southeastern United States and my attitude toward the tree has changed.

Through a wide variety of activities, ranging from tourist souvenirs to national agricultural programs, the United States has imported thousands of species of plants from other parts of the world. A few additional species tagged along as accidental imports. Some of the imported plants are very important to us as the basis of the country’s agricultural industry. Some are familiar garden and house plants. Others, like dandelion and goose grass, escaped to fields and roadsides. Of the weeds, a small percentage are aggressively invading our natural areas, crowding out native plants and animals and clogging waterways. These invaders from other countries are known to natural areas’ managers as “exotic pest plants.” As a group, this relatively small number of species is regarded as one of the most serious threats to the natural environment.

Local gardeners might be surprised to find familiar plants like Chinese wisteria, Mexican petunia, wedelia, and coral vine on the exotic pest plant list. These plants can be found in local nurseries. It can be a little confusing. Lantana and nandina are on the list, but many of the plants found in local nurseries are hybrids or selections that produce few or no seeds. Responsible gardeners should check the exotic pest plant list and question the nursery about their plants before making a purchase. A full list of Florida’s exotic pest plants can be seen at the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Web site at www.flepp Council.

Besides my old friend, the mimosa tree, exotic pest plants on the UNF campus include Chinese tallow tree, Chinaberry tree, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese climbing fern and air potato. Landscape and Grounds staff are working to remove these plants from natural areas and to eliminate listed species from the campus landscape.

By Chuck Hubbuch, coordinator of Landscape and Grounds

Editor’s Note: As the coordinator of Landscape and Grounds, Chuck Hubbuch’s subtle handiwork is visible everywhere on campus. Prior to coming to UNF, he was the curator of botany at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. We’ve asked him to write a column on campus plants, many of which are common to Jacksonville’s yards.

Chuck Hubbuch

Mimosa tree

Coggin College of Business
Accounting and Finance: Dr. Lynn Comer Jones’ article titled “Bananas Foster: Qualifying Dependents” will be published in The CPA Journal’s August issue.
Management: Drs. Steven Williamson and Dag Naslund received awards from the National Paper Trade Alliance for their research leading to industry-wide adoption of the paperNet business transactions protocols.
International Business: Marlena Martinez, with J.P. Dugan, S.J. Gehlke and S.R. Komives, co-authored an article titled, “Student Programmers and Leadership Development: Select Findings from the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership,” which was featured in the May 2007 issue of Campus Activities and Programming magazine. The article focused on a research study about college leadership development.
College of Arts and Sciences Advising: Carlos Monell was a program presenter at the 2007 2+2 Community College Conference held on the UNF campus.
Biology: Dr. Gregory Ahearn participated in a science advisory panel for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., to select grant proposals for funding by the agency. Ahearn also received a Research Experience for Undergraduates supplement to an National Science Foundation grant to conduct a summer research project.
Dr. Doria F. Bowers recently received a National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award grant in support of her research titled “Biology-Pathology of a Persistent Arbovirus in a Mosquito.”
Dr. Gerald Stine published his 16th edition of “AIDS

Continued on page 7
“That's a great question,” said Sharon Ashton, assistant vice president of Public Relations and a member of UNF's Crisis Management Team. “In the event of an emergency, employees need accurate and timely information to help them make informed decisions.”

According to Ashton, in the days leading up to a storm, routine forms of communication are utilized, such as Campus Update and Student Update, sometimes with links to other helpful sites. These electronic forms of communication are used to keep the campus community informed of what they need to be doing and when.

Once a situation becomes a crisis, other forms of communication are used. The Crisis Management Team has the ability to alter the University's home page to give the latest information. Ashton said there are three reasons this is so effective. First, the University's webmaster has the ability to update the information from a remote location, so he doesn't have to be on campus where the crisis is occurring.

Second, the University has an emergency home page hosted out of state, www.unf911.org. “Third, and most importantly, this is a way to communicate a message to students, faculty and staff, regardless of where they are located. If someone evacuated Jacksonville, they still have the ability to get the latest information from UNF.”

For past emergencies, the Crisis Management Team has also used the University's Information Line to get the word out. When callers dial 620-1000, the message they hear will address the current situation. And just like the homepage, changes can be made from a remote location. When the Information Line is used to distribute information, the message always starts with an announcement of the day and time so callers know when the information was last updated.

For other emergencies, the Crisis Management Team has the ability to use the public address system in buildings, mobile message boards at the campus entrances and the local media. All are effective ways to get the word out.
Continued from page 5

**UPDATE 2007** with McGraw-Hill.

**Chemistry and Physics:** Dr. Barry Albright recently received a grant from the National Geographic Society’s Committee for Research and Exploration for continued geological and paleontological work in southern Utah.

**Criminology and Criminal Justice:** Dr. Christine E. Rasche recently presented a Brown Bag Lecture on her current research on “Female Suicide Bombers and the Gendered Nature of Instrumental Homicide.” Rasche also served as an invited panelist at the annual Mayor’s Rights Week Seminar presented by the Mayor’s Victim’s Assistance Advisory Council. The two-hour panel was titled “Reflected Pain: The Psychological Impact of Violence on Families and the Community,” during which Rasche addressed the impact of violence on the larger community. In addition, she served as the moderator of the last of the faculty forums of the Faculty Association Planning Committee’s review of the University’s strategic plan.

**English:** Dr. Mary Baron has two poems, “Interpretation of Dreams” and “Summer Mornings,” in the April 25 issue of Lagniappe, which can be reviewed at www.lagniappemobile.com.

**Dr. Tru Leverette** presented “New Americans: Race, Mixture, and Nation in the Work of Jean Toomer and Jose Vasconcelos” at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Puebla, Mexico.

**Dr. Clark Lunberry** gave a paper, “A Saloquio of Silence: James Turrell’s Theater of Installation,” at the Built Spaces: Earth-Sky and Human Praxes Conference at Duquesne University’s Simon Silverman Phenomenon Center.

**Mathematics and Statistics:** Dr. Mahbub Rahman gave a talk titled “Stochastic Approximation of Differential Equation Arises in Mathematical Neurosciences” at the 5th International Conference on Dynamic Systems and Applications in Atlanta.

**Dr. Rama Rao** served on the judging team at the 52nd annual State Science and Engineering Fair at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. He also served on the judging team for the 19th Annual International Science and Engineering Fair 2007 in Albuquerque, N.M.

**Music:** Dr. Gordon R. Brock served as guest conductor and clinician for the Edmonton Public School Board and the Victoria High School for the Performing Arts in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

**Philosophy and Religious Studies:** Dr. Julie Ingersoll was the guest on The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Online Colloquy for a discussion of the recent article “I Suffer Not a Woman to Teach.” She was interviewed for the article, which also referenced her book “Evangelical Christian Women: War Stories from the Gender Battles.” She also presented the invited paper “Rank and File Evangelicals and the Activist Elite,” at the Christian Conservatives and American Democracy Conference sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation in New York.

**Dr. John Maraldo** organized and gave the opening address of a conference on Buddhist sources for his co-edited work in progress, “A Sourcebook in Japanese Philosophy.” The conference took place in Techny, Ill.

**Political Science and Public Administration:** Dr. David Schwan-Baird presented his paper “The War on Terror and Neo-Liberal Reforms: Policy Disconnect?” at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.

**World Languages:** Dr. José Angeles presented “La desarticulación del estadio-nación y los derechos del individuo. El espacio imposible: Las semanas del jardín y El sitio de los sitios, de Juan Goytisolo” at the annual meeting of the Cincinnati Romance Languages and Literatures Conference at the University of Cincinnati.

**Dr. Ana Yolanda Contreras** presented a paper titled “El impacto del video-comic Sweet Dalila, una mujer liberal en la cultura popular guatemalteca” during the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association, which took place in Boston.

**Dr. Kyle Echols** presented “Guerra, terrorismo y derechos humanos en tres novelas peruanas: Redoble por Rancas de Manuel Scorza, Lituma en los Andes de Mario Vargas Llosa y Abril rojo de Santiago Roncagliolo” at the annual meeting of the Cincinnati Romance Languages and Literatures Conference at the University of Cincinnati.

Echols organized the panel on Post-Humanism and Human Rights in Iberian and Ibero-American Literatures, his paper being one of three that comprised the session. In addition, Echols presented “La otra utopía peruana” at the 54th Reunion of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies in San José, Costa Rica, and “Furioso Palimpsests: Creole Eugenics, Genocide, and Family Romance in 19th Century Mexico and Peru” at the 19th Century Studies Association meeting in Susquehanna, Penn.

**Dr. Fernando de Sousa Rocha** presented “Radio Days: Voice Performance in the 1930s” at the academic conference, Performing Brazil, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

**Dr. Jorge Fables** presented “El icono oficial como sujeto en el objeto de deseo de Monte-Huidobro” at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association, which was conducted in Boston. At the same meeting, Fables was awarded the PCA Felicia M. Campbell Award for Outstanding Area Chair. Fables also published “Am I Who I Am?: Identity Gains in U.S. Cuban Literature” as part of Carlota Cafuifeld and Darién Davis’ “A Companion to US Latino Literatures,” edited by Carlota Cafuifeld and Darién J. Davis and published in London by Tamesis Books, 2007.

**College of Computing, Engineering and Construction Building Construction Management:** The paper by Dr. Mike Jackson, “Pavement Subgrade Stabilization and Construction using Bed and Fly Ash,” was presented and published at the World of Coal Ash (WOCA) Conference in May.

**School of Engineering:** Dr. Adel El-Safty joined the San Jose Episcopal Day School Advisory Board. The board focuses on global studies in which students are provided various educational opportunities to learn about other cultures such as a new curriculum in development on Egypt.

**Dr. Alan Harris,** with Mouhammad K. Al Akkouni, Fares N. Beainy, Robert C. Huck, Pramode K. Verma and Hazem H. Refai, presented their paper, “Hybrid Networks - Free Space Optics to Balloon Mounted Wireless Local Area Network for Remote Emergency Operations,” at The 7th International Association of Science and Technology for Development (Iasted) International Conference on Wireless and Optical Communications in May.

Harris was also selected as the “Professor of the Year” by the senior electrical engineering students at the School of Engineering Senior Dinner in April. The paper by Dr. Dean J. Kruisenski, E.W. Sellers, and T.M. Vaughan, “Common Spatio-temporal Patterns for the P300 Speller,” was presented and published at the 3rd International Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Conference on Neural Engineering.

The paper by Dr. Susan Vasana, Alexander J. Ebenal Continued on page 8
Welcome:
New employees include: Laura Kate K. Barrett, coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Kevin M. Campbell, volleyball head coach in Athletics; Kunshana L. Daniels, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Andrew S. Davis, senior store and receiving clerk in Purchasing; April G. Grayson, fiscal assistant in the Controller’s Office; Rachel Green, area coordinator in University Housing; Viva Henry, education and training coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Emilia M. Hodge, adjunct in the College of Education and Human Services; Probyn E. Inniss, admissions and registration coordinator in Admissions; Lance J. Kerwin, education and training program coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Cassandra J. Kirksey, program assistant in the Enrollment Services Processing Office; Cedric D. Lewis, adjunct in Accounting and Finance; Renee M. Liss, education and training program coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Royal H. Logan, education and training program coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Tracey Y. Luke, senior secretary in Enrollment Services; Marlene E. McCollum, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Kimberly McConn, area coordinator in University Housing; Andrea M. Minus, education and training coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Lauren E. O’Shields, assistant University librarian in the Library; Justin C. Pavon, fiscal assistant in Controller’s Office; Martina L. Perry, academic support services coordinator in Academic Affairs; Andrea T. Raines, education and training coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Patricia A. Richards, adjunct in the Brooks College of Health; James A. Russell, education and training program coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Ava R. Smith, adjunct in Nursing; Nina A. Smith, visiting instructor in Nursing; Laura F. Stumpf, accounting coordinator in the Training and Services Institute; Cherisse A. Sumner, personnel representative in Human Resources; Junior B. Tait, education and training coordinator in the Florida Institute of Education; Cory “Rudy” Taylor, area coordinator in University Housing; April L. Thompson, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Kelvin J. Williams, custodial supervisor in Physical Facilities; Steven H. Wilson, groundskeeper in Physical Facilities; Corey N. Wright, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Emily Wyrick, area coordinator in University Housing; Amy Zuchlewski, residence life coordinator in University Housing.

Deaths:
Condolences to Amy Weatherford, an academic adviser in the College of Education and Human Services. Her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class William Weatherford, was killed when his helicopter crashed during a training mission in Nevada. A memorial fund for Weatherfords’ three children has been established with Wachovia Bank. Donations may be made at any Wachovia bank, or mailed to: Weatherford Family Fund, c/o Wachovia Bank, 425 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

Congratulations:
Congratulations to Dr. Adel El-Ansary on his appointment as chairman of the Marketing and Logistics Department in the Coggin College of Business. Bob Boyle (Residence Life) has accepted the associate director for Residence Life position. Previously, Boyle served as the associate director of Housing Operations. Boyle began his new role in Residence Life June 18. Jocelyn Heck (Career Services) was awarded a fellowship to attend the seventh annual summer institute, “The Slovak Seminar on the Free Society,” June 26-July 5 in Bratislava and Spisska Kapitula of the Slovak Republic.

Florida Institute of Education:
Royal H. Logan, education and training program coordinator in Florida Institute of Education; Tracey Y. Luke, senior secretary in Enrollment Services; Marlene E. McCollum, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Kimberly McConn, area coordinator in University Housing; Andrea M. Minus, education and training coordinator in Florida Institute of Education; Lauren E. O’Shields, assistant University librarian in the Library; Justin C. Pavon, fiscal assistant in Controller’s Office; Martina L. Perry, academic support services coordinator in Academic Affairs; Andrea T. Raines, education and training coordinator in Florida Institute of Education; Patricia A. Richards, adjunct in the Brooks College of Health; James A. Russell, education and training program coordinator in Florida Institute of Education; Ava R. Smith, adjunct in Nursing; Nina A. Smith, visiting instructor in Nursing; Laura F. Stumpf, accounting coordinator in Training and Services Institute; Cherisse A. Sumner, personnel representative in Human Resources; Junior B. Tait, education and training coordinator in Florida Institute of Education; Cory “Rudy” Taylor, area coordinator in University Housing; April L. Thompson, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Kelvin J. Williams, custodial supervisor in Physical Facilities; Steven H. Wilson, groundskeeper in Physical Facilities; Corey N. Wright, custodial worker in Physical Facilities; Emily Wyrick, area coordinator in University Housing; Amy Zuchlewski, residence life coordinator in University Housing.

July Milestone Anniversaries:
35 years – Eddie L. Collins, Sociology and Anthropology
30 years – Connie W. Corker, Labor Relations; Angela W. Randtke, Library
15 years – Rhonda L. Hartney, Continuing Education
10 years – Tammy B. Anderson, Library; Terri W. Cook, Florida Institute of Education; Norma P. Gainers, Information Technology Services; Michael A. Pinkney, Physical Facilities; Richard T. Roberts, Career Services

and Timothy Shine, “The Essential Harmonics Of Arterial Blood Pressure Signals,” was presented and published at The 3rd IASTED International Conference on Telehealth in May.

Dr. Pat Welsh presented UNF’s research program on coastal oceanography and meteorology at the Inaugural South Atlantic Bight Physical Oceanography and Meteorology meeting in May. Welsh also presented recent data on UNF’s weather modeling efforts at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference in May.


Dr. Charles Winton appeared on WJXT’s “Ask the UNF Expert” program in May, speaking on the topic of artificial intelligence robotics. Winton, along with Dr. Carl Crane, also gave a presentation on “Robot Rally” for the Nassau County’s K-5 gifted program in May.

Dr. Jerry Merckel gave an invited presentation, “Keys To Success,” to 60 officers of the U.S. Navy Engineering Command at Mayport Naval Base in May. Merckel was also appointed as a member of the 2007-2008 ABET Computing Accreditation Commission.

College of Education and Human Services: Childhood Education: Dr. S. Rohana Murray presented a paper at the Annual Convention of the International Reading Association Conference in Toronto, Canada. Murray also received an award of recognition for founding and chairing for 10 years this international poetry gathering, which features renowned children’s authors.

Foundations and Secondary Education: In April, Dr. Sue Terrell presented “Using Graphic Organizers to Enhance the Lecture” at the International Conference on Teaching and Learning in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Leadership, Counseling and Instructional Technology: Drs. Jennifer Kane and Jason Lee recently presented a paper titled “The Film Room: Exploring the Educational Benefits of Film Use in Sport Management Education” at the annual conference of the North American Society for Sport Management in Ft. Lauderdale.
High winds are the primary cause of property damage during a hurricane, but just as damaging is the flooding caused by coastal storm surges and torrential rains. When it comes to computer and electronic equipment on campus, water damage is the main concern.

“Historically, when there’s been a true threat of a hurricane we typically advise folks to arrange with Physical Facilities to get some plastic bags to cover their computers and other important equipment,” said Lance Taylor, assistant vice president and chief information officer for Information Technology Services. “Basically, you just want to keep the water off.”

Before covering it with plastic and securing the ends with tape, Taylor recommends unplugging all equipment and moving everything off the ground onto a desktop, preferably in a room without windows. This includes CPUs (central processing units), monitors, printers, scanners, telephones, radios and anything else of value. Although these items probably won’t be protected in the worst-case scenario where high winds blow debris through windows or buildings are leveled, the plastic will help protect equipment from rain and rising water to some extent.

Employees who were around in 2004 when Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne slammed into Florida are probably all-too-familiar with the process of covering their computer equipment with plastic.

“It’s like the boy who cried wolf,” Taylor said. “After the second or third time you’ve done it, you think this isn’t really going to happen, so do I really need to cover it? The answer is yeah, it’s a pain in the neck, but do it anyway. This could be the time the storm turns and comes our way, and we get the water damage.”

Taylor also urges employees to regularly back up their data onto a network drive, where it will remain safe in a storm. “Our network drives are being backed up every day, and we do off-site rotation as well, which means we pick it up and physically move it to a place across town that’s secured from hurricane-force winds,” he said. “If you’ve got stuff on your hard drive or discs, you’re on your own. We don’t have the facilities to back up what folks have on their hard drives.”

Before heading out when given evacuation orders, employees should also cover important paper documents, CDs, DVDs and other data with plastic — or take them to a safe place — close and latch all windows, close window blinds and, if possible, lock drawers and filing cabinets.
Youngsters at Ray Bunch Soccer Camp celebrate on Awards Day.

James Grimball hands off the ball for a drill at Matt Kilcullen’s Osprey Basketball Camp.

Amy Higgs (right) keeps her eye on the ball during a busy sports camp activity.

Dr. Stephen Nix (center) works with two Math, Science, and Engineering Camp participants.

Instructor Kim Yorio (right) leads Alaina Clark, Arianna Beyer and Kayli Wilder (left to right) through a rehearsal at North Florida Music Camp.
Ayolane Halvsky shows a group of Osprey EcoCamp participants (including Jasmine Mason, Brooke Williams and Bryan Dunlop) a replica of an underground Native American shelter that was constructed on one of the Nature trails.

Instructor Nicky Martin checks out Caitlin Patrick’s swing at Coach Schroeder’s Summer Golf Camp.

Shareef Rajkumar (right) finds himself in the middle of the action at Ray Bunch Soccer Camp.

Michael Bovenzi (center) leads his Saxophone Quartet during a rehearsal at the North Florida Music Camp.
When evacuating campus buildings during an emergency or natural disaster, every minute counts. This is especially true when it comes to evacuating during a fire or bomb threat, but it’s also important during hurricane-related evacuations. To streamline this process, a number of individuals on campus have been designated as building supervisors, who act on a voluntary basis to ensure the safety of their office mates during an emergency.

“We have three or four building supervisors per floor in each building so that we have coverage if somebody’s out at any given time, and we have a backup person or two to cover the floor,” said Dan Endicott, director of Environmental Health and Safety. “Their duties are to assist with the evacuation or exiting the building. They make sure that everybody’s out, they do a headcount, pick an area of refuge for everyone to go to, and if anyone needs assistance if they’re disabled or injured, they call the police and ask them to come back to help this person out.”

If a fire alarm has been pulled in a false alarm, the building supervisor also meets UPD at the fire alarm panel until the “all clear” is given and employees can return to their offices.

Building supervisors are chosen by department directors, vice presidents or deans, based on a number of criteria. “We’re looking for someone who is here most of the time and doesn’t travel a lot, someone with a strong personality who can take charge in an emergency, and someone who has the willingness to cooperate and be helpful as well as conscientious,” Endicott said. “They also need to be level-headed and calm in emergency situations.”

Training is provided annually to ensure building supervisors are familiar with their duties. During this training, one person in each building is designated as the team leader to act as a coordinator for all building supervisors.

As director of the University Center, George Androuin was an obvious choice for the UC building supervisor. In the past five years, Androuin has helped with several false-alarm evacuations, usually caused by dust particles registering as smoke and setting off fire alarms.

“I’ve been very satisfied with how well we’ve done evacuating the building the times we’ve had to,” Androuin said. “We’ve always managed to get everyone out within a couple of minutes, and it’s been very orderly and successful.”

Fortunately, getting folks to evacuate buildings during a hurricane threat doesn’t require the same quick action as other emergencies, according to Richard Crosby, associate vice president of Administration and Finance. “In a hurricane, the evacuation’s totally different. It’s very methodical, very easy,” he said. “When you have a bomb threat or a fire, that’s when it’s spur-of-the-moment and we have issues of getting people out extremely quickly.”

With the recent staff moves to UNF Hall and other buildings on campus, the building-supervisor list will need to be updated to make sure all buildings are covered. Anyone interested in volunteering as a building supervisor is encouraged to discuss it with a department director, VP or dean.
Art features local landmark trees

New York artist Anders Knutson installed three acrylic paintings and two framed graphite drawings in the Social Sciences Building last month. He was commissioned by the University to create the series of realistic artwork depicting existing native landmark trees of northeast Florida, including the Treaty Oak of Jacksonville, the most famous tree in town. Knutson is originally from Sweden, where he studied art and engineering. He came to the U.S. in 1967 to work in the aerospace industry. He has lived in New York City since 1977.

CDRC kindergartners pass with flying colors

Children in UNF’s Child Development and Research Center (CDRC) scored in the top 4 percent on a statewide test of 4-year-olds. Children entering kindergarten were tested using the Flickers evaluation tool, which evaluated a child’s skill in letter identification and beginning sounds. CDRC students achieved a score of 293 out of 300. The tests were part of a program mandated by a constitutional amendment passed by Florida voters in November that requires the state to provide every 4-year-old child in the state with quality voluntary pre-kindergarten programming to ensure that they are intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially ready to enter school and learn.

History professor publishes book on Jacksonville’s past

Dr. Carolyn Williams, UNF history professor, has a new book titled “Historic Photos of Jacksonville,” which provides an account of the city’s history from the 1860s to 1960s through text and photos. Williams wrote the text and captions for the book. The photos reveal that Jacksonville played a major role in the nation’s wars from the Civil War to World War II, because of its strategic location on the river; its designation as a place to which slaves fled to escape bondage from rural Florida; its designation as a major staging center for the Spanish American War; and its designation as a shipping center, and repair and construction site for military vessels. Also illustrated in the book are children in community schools, recreation centers at the beaches and along the river, diverse citizens of Jacksonville, and the evolution of downtown.

UNF Hall Bistro opens for business

Chartwells opened its newest dining location, UNF Hall Bistro, last month. Located on the ground floor of UNF Hall, the bistro is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, offering baked-to-order sandwiches, tossed-to-order salads, breakfast items and sides. To avoid waiting in line, orders can be called in to 620-4353.
They need me. They need me not. Who’s essential in an emergency?

Deciding which employees are essential during an emergency can be relatively simple. Essential employees include those necessary to ensure the safety of the campus as well as its continuous operation throughout an emergency and in its immediate aftermath. Members of the University Police Department almost always get selected, as do Physical Facilities employees tasked with securing campus buildings and equipment before a storm as well as clearing debris in its wake.

Depending on the length of an emergency, the list of essential employees could include staff to process payroll, to keep the University’s Web page online, and to handle emergency supplies or staff from any area providing a service that cannot be interrupted. Other essential employees are determined by the length and severity of the disaster.

“If they’re not certain that they’re essential employees for this particular disaster or emergency, they should check with their supervisor, and they should probably check before an emergency or disaster,” said Human Resources Director S. Angel Cummings. “All parties should be aware of their status.”

Every department is expected to have a disaster plan that outlines roles and responsibilities as well as contact numbers for emergencies. In addition, the University’s Crisis Management Team directs emergency operations.

If a campus evacuation is ordered during a normal work day, non-essential employees get days off with pay while essential employees who work during emergencies are compensated differently. The system is designed to be fair. Essential Administrative and Professional employees are compensated with days off after the emergency, while essential support personnel are paid time-and-a-half for hours worked during an emergency. OPS employees who work during an emergency receive their regular pay up to 40 hours a week and overtime beyond that. As for faculty, there is no impact on pay when classes are canceled and the campus is evacuated.

UNF employees who are assigned to work during a disaster at Chets Creek Elementary, the University’s designated American Red Cross shelter, are considered volunteers and not subject to pay for their regular positions. However, the University pays these employees $12.50 an hour or a maximum of $100 a day. The University can reevaluate this guideline if the emergency continues for an extended period of time.

Non-essential employees who would like to train to work at the shelter adopted by UNF can contact Lynn Hendrick at 620-4680.

Protecting windows is one of many tasks undertaken in preparation for a hurricane. Tim Adams and Owen Wilson install window covers at the University Police Department.
Q: From Tracy Geake (ITS): What's going to happen to all the portables that have been vacated by employees who moved to UNF Hall and other areas on campus? Will they be destroyed, sold or reused?

A: From Zak Ovadia (Facilities Planning): Most of the portables were being leased from GE Capital. These will be returned at the end of the lease period. There are four other portables that are owned; three of them have been judged to be beyond their useful life and would not be suitable for re-use. The last one is in reasonable condition, and we anticipate it being used by the construction management company that will build the Student Union.

Q: From Rabena Johnson (Marketing & Publications): Why do I often see empty UPD vehicles parked along the campus roadways?

A: From Chief Mark Foxworth (UPD): While it may seem decoy vehicles are only observed on the side of the roadway, they are also parked at other locations on campus such as near a building or in a parking lot. The use of decoy police vehicles serves a two-fold purpose. The first is to increase police visibility. With the recent increase in our area's population, members of the UPD have begun to encounter a growing number of people who are cruising or exploring our campus. Experience shows us that unprotected locations that have mass parking areas are easy targets for the criminal element. With increased visibility, we hope to send a message to someone who may be cruising our campus looking for an easy target that there are police officers on campus. If they see a police car near a building or in a parking lot, they may not want to take the chance of committing a crime if they believe an officer may be nearby or returning to the car. The other reason is, of course, to encourage compliance with traffic safety laws. While we cannot always have an officer enforce traffic laws, it is a natural tendency to slow down or be more careful when you see a police car (I even check my speed when I see a police car on campus). With the new 9A entrance we have found that it is difficult for people to adjust their speed, so in addition to enforcement, we use the vehicles to help remind people to slow down. We also use the decoy cars on the back section of UNF Drive where people tend to get a little heavy-footed. But don't be fooled - just as soon as you think the car is empty, it may have an officer in it running radar!

Q: From Mary Stumph (Office of the General Counsel): Are there any plans in the making or discussions of incorporating the 9A overpass into part of our "Welcome to UNF" sign? Maybe on the other side could be a "Thanks for visiting UNF." As I sit at the light before 9A, waiting to enter the campus, I think of the "Welcome to Jacksonville" sign on the overpass at I-95 and I-295 and think that UNF could benefit from that type of signage.

A: From Zak Ovadia: President Delaney brought up this idea to the FDOT [Florida Department of Transportation] a long time ago (around the time that the overpass was being constructed). At that time there were issues with mounting private signs on DOT structures. The issue could be revisited at a later date.
In addition to the sound and fury of a hurricane, the big storms can also produce a silent, unseen psychologic hazard just as dangerous as high winds and torrential rains. That silent hazard is stress.

“It is important to deal with stress in order to prevent exacerbation of stress-related symptoms and to prevent other problems from arising,” said Richmond Wynn, a licensed mental health counselor and coordinator of outreach and consultation at the UNF Counseling Center. “Stress that goes unaddressed can lead to sustained periods of irritability, anger, depression or anxiety. Chronic stress also contributes to the development of a number of physical problems.”

Wynn urges any UNF employee experiencing hurricane-related stress, either of an impending storm or in the aftermath of one, to contact the Counseling Center. While the center deals primarily with students, counselors can talk to staff and faculty about the University’s Employee Assistance Program and other long-term mental health resources available in the community.

Wynn encourages supervisors to be vigilant for signs of stress, hurricane-related or not, in employees. These signs can include tardiness, excess absences, not taking lunch, isolating themselves from other employees and decreased concentration on assignments. “Supervisors should absolutely not ignore the problem,” Wynn said.

He discouraged supervisors from serving as counselors for employees. Instead, he said they should refer the employee to the proper resources. Wynn said supervisors try to be supportive of employees affected by hurricane-related stress by addressing issues as they arise.

“Research has shown that both good and bad change in life can cause stress,” said Michael Malec, Counseling Center assistant director. “If stress is not dealt with promptly and effectively, it eventually can be manifested in other unhealthy, negative and ineffective forms.”

Wynn warns that stress can result from unrealistic expectations about what a person can control.

“YOU CAN’T CONTROL THE WEATHER.”

Richmond Wynn

“RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT BOTH GOOD AND BAD CHANGE IN LIFE CAN CAUSE STRESS.”

Michael Malec