

**By Senator Smith**

14-2291-03

2 A resolution celebrating April 15, 2003, as  
3 "University of Florida Day."

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5           WHEREAS, the University of Florida, the only Florida  
6 university honored by membership in the prestigious  
7 Association of American Universities, is celebrating its 150th  
8 anniversary during this year 2003, and

WHEREAS, the university, the leading institution of higher learning of its state, has served its community, its state, its nation, and the world at large both faithfully and exceptionally while performing its mission of teaching, research, and service, and

WHEREAS, the university, Florida's largest, now enrolls and provides the opportunities inherent in higher education to more than 47,000 students, making it the fourth-largest campus in the country, and

WHEREAS, the university's student population represents all of Florida's 67 counties, all 40 states, and more than 100 countries, thereby bringing cultural and intellectual diversity to its campus while also significantly extending the ideals of the American and Florida higher-education system worldwide, and

WHEREAS, the university ranks first among all public universities in the number of National Achievement Scholars enrolled in the Fall 2002 freshman class, and ranks second among all public universities in enrolling National Merit Scholars in the same class, demonstrating the appeal of the high standards of a University of Florida education to the state's and nation's top young scholars from all walks of life, and

1        WHEREAS, the university's outstanding  
2 freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 93 percent underlines  
3 the outstanding quality of the university's entire academic  
4 experience, from enjoying the education offered in several  
5 top-20 ranked academic programs, and personal academic and  
6 career advising, to sophisticated online programs, to  
7 self-tracking of academic progress, and

8        WHEREAS, the university ranks third in the nation for  
9 all AAU universities in bachelor's degrees awarded to African  
10 American students and third amongst AAU universities in Latino  
11 students earning bachelor's degrees in the latest ranking  
12 completed, providing a further and commendable example of the  
13 university's continuing commitment to attracting, enrolling,  
14 retaining, and graduating students from all walks of life,  
15 reflecting our state's and nation's magnificent heritage and  
16 culture, and

17        WHEREAS, the university, a top "Research Extensive"  
18 university as classified by the Carnegie Foundation, and the  
19 center of distinguished colleges and highly advanced liberal  
20 arts and sciences programs, employs many of the finest faculty  
21 and staff found at any institution in the United States,  
22 including its recent ranking in the Top Ten for Fulbright  
23 Awards among the elite members of the Association of American  
24 Universities, and

25        WHEREAS, the faculty staff and students of the  
26 university have accomplished world-class results in numerous  
27 areas of healthcare research, including the University of  
28 Florida's College of Dentistry's efforts to eradicate oral  
29 diseases and craniofacial pain and disorders worldwide,  
30 including Dr. Jeffery Hillman's exceptional work to eliminate  
31 tooth decay for all time, and

1        WHEREAS, researchers at the University of Florida have  
2 sought innovative, counter-intuitive methods to treat age-old  
3 scourges of humankind, including UF's Dr. Terry Flotte's  
4 critical work to use harmless adeno-associated viruses to  
5 deliver corrective genes to combat such diseases as cystic  
6 fibrosis, and

7        WHEREAS, the researchers at the university are  
8 advancing the field of the physical sciences whose  
9 applications have reached for the sky and beyond, including  
10 the work of the new Institute for Future Space Transport, a  
11 7-member consortium of universities headed by University of  
12 Florida's Professor Wei Shyy, tasked to develop the  
13 next-generation near-space transport system, and

14        WHEREAS, the university is applying new technologies to  
15 resolve ancient engineering challenges, such as Dr. Marc  
16 Hoit's efforts in creating and applying new computerized  
17 engineering strategies and tactics now adopted worldwide to  
18 examine the safety and effective lifetime of older structures,  
19 such as bridges and piers, and designing newer, safer  
20 constructions, and

21        WHEREAS, the university has unique programs essential  
22 to the welfare of the state of Florida and all its  
23 inhabitants, such as the university's College of Veterinary  
24 Medicine where Dr. Janet Yamamoto, Professor of Pathology, has  
25 recently received approval by the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture of a vaccine she created to defeat the spread of  
27 feline immunodeficiency virus, a disease that may infect as  
28 much as 25 percent of the global domestic cat population, and  
29 may have application in the development of a human AIDS  
30 vaccine, and

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1        WHEREAS, the university is Florida's largest, oldest  
2 land-grant institution, whose Institute of Food and  
3 Agricultural Sciences has global reach and monumental  
4 statewide impact on mastering all manner of agricultural and  
5 consumer concerns, including the work of UF's Dr. Nan-Yao Su,  
6 the world's authority on the behavioral ecology and control of  
7 subterranean termites, whose creation of a monitoring/baiting  
8 program with hexaflumuron, now commercially available to the  
9 public under the trade name, Sentricon, now provides a more  
10 environmentally safe, highly effective means of reducing  
11 termite devastation, which had been costing consumers in this  
12 country \$1.5 billion annually to control, and

13        WHEREAS, the University of Florida continually excels  
14 across the range of its student-athletics programs, from NCAA  
15 Division 1 powerhouses in major sports to earning national  
16 championships with its student intramural programs, and  
17 creating exceptional opportunities for young men and women to  
18 experience the joy and rugged self-discipline of  
19 student-athleticism, with results that rank UF's overall  
20 intercollegiate sports programs as the best in its conference  
21 and one of the top 5 programs in the country when considering  
22 overall game day success, graduation rates, support, Title IX  
23 compliance, and commitment to excellence, as exemplified by  
24 the university's dedication to bringing to its campus the  
25 finest coaches in the country, to include Women's Basketball  
26 Coach Carolyn Peck, NOW, THEREFORE,

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28        Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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30        That the Florida Senate celebrates April 15, 2003, as  
31 "The University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee, in honor of

1 the University of Florida's singular contributions to its  
2 state, its nation, and throughout the world since its  
3 inception 150 years ago.  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
5 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr.  
6 Charles E. Young, President of the University of Florida, as a  
7 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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