Announcement and Prospectus

Eminent Scholar (Davies, Fischer and Eckes Endowed Chair)
Entomology and Nematology Department
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Announcement
The University of Florida invites applications and nominations for the position of Eminent Scholar (Davies, Fischer and Eckes Endowed Chair), Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Gainesville, Florida. The Entomology and Nematology Department has one of the largest and most diverse faculty of entomology and nematology in the United States. We are a dynamic department, excelling in research, Extension, teaching, outreach, and service.

Position Description
This is a 12-month tenured position involving 20% teaching (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences) and 80% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station), available in the Entomology and Nematology Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This is an endowed chair position with a current endowment of $2.3 million. The Eminent Scholar will have access to a portion of the interest generated by the endowment for program support. The major research emphasis will be to investigate and develop novel citrus pest management solutions using modern molecular and/or genomic tools. Areas of expertise may include biological control, host-plant resistance, invertebrate pathology, toxicology, or host-symbiont interactions, with the goal of improving control of arthropod pests of citrus. Duties will include developing an internationally recognized research program funded with significant extramural funding and disseminated in high-impact journals. The faculty member will teach a graduate course in his/her area of expertise and occasional seminar courses, and conduct research with application to citrus pest management. The tenure department will be
Entomology and Nematology. The faculty member will participate actively in undergraduate and graduate education by supervising undergraduate, thesis, and dissertation research, publishing the results with his/her graduate students, and serving on graduate committees. In addition, the successful candidate will engage in scholarly activities, such as participating in curriculum revision and enhancement, seeking funding for the teaching program, publishing teaching related scholarship, producing learning tools, and engaging in professional development activities related to teaching and advising. Faculty members are encouraged to support and participate in the CALS Honors Program, distance education and international education. The faculty member will support Extension activities related to citrus pest management as is appropriate.

Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty members are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description.

**Qualifications**

The Eminent Scholar must have:

- A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in Entomology, or a closely related discipline
- Attained Associate or Full Professor status, or its equivalent if not currently in academia
- An independently established outstanding research program and accomplishments
- A consistent record of producing high quality publications
- Highly significant national and international professional recognition in their field
- Proven success in obtaining extramural funding
- Demonstrated skill in verbal and written communication
- Consistently maintained harmonious collaborative relationships
- A commitment to provide service to the department, IFAS, UF, and the community
- Acceptance of IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability
- A willingness to support of the mission of the land-grant system

**Compensation**

Compensation will be highly competitive and includes a generous benefit package. The salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.
Nomination and Application Process
For full consideration, candidates must apply and submit additional materials by December 6, 2015. This position is available January 1, 2016, and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. The position announcement and application instructions are at Careers at UF, online at http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/492417/.

Application and Nomination Contact
Please refer to Requisition #492417 (Position #00013344)

Dr. Norman C. Leppla
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Entomology & Nematology Department
Steinmetz Hall
1881 Natural Area Drive
Gainesville FL 32611-0620
Telephone: (352) 273-3951
Facsimile: (352) 392-0190
Electronic Mail: ncleppla@ufl.edu

Entomology and Nematology Department
The mission of the department is “To be a world leader in entomology and nematology by conducting superior research, delivering quality teaching, and extending knowledge to improve agriculture, the environment and human health and well-being. This mission is accomplished by engaging in superior research, Extension and teaching programs, the tripartite priorities of a comprehensive land-grant university. The department has more than 70 faculty members with about 40 being located at research and education centers throughout the state. This distribution of faculty provides an exceptional opportunity for collaboration within diverse ecological and crop production systems. Current areas of emphasis generally include: behavior, ecology and systematics; biological control; medical, veterinary and urban entomology; nematology; and pest management. About 30 percent of our 100 plus graduate students are international. This, plus significant collaborative international research and education grants procured by entomology-nematology faculty, gives the department a strong international dimension in addition to its domestic mandate. The department is part of the UF, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and operates under a set of bylaws.¹

¹http://faculty.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/unit_bylaws/Unit_Bylaws_Entomology.pdf
The University of Florida is the flagship university in the Florida University System. In 2013 it was ranked #14 in the Top Public Universities by U.S. News and World Report and #15 on the Forbes list of best public universities. It is one of only 17 land-grant universities to be a member of the Association of American Universities, and one of the few to also have a Medical School, Veterinary School, Business School, and Law School on the same campus. The University of Florida has an enrollment of approximately 50,000 students and 4,000 faculty members across 16 colleges. Highlights include:

- UF has 34 Eminent Scholar chairs and 42 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Students admitted for the fall 2015 freshman class had an average 4.3 GPA and SAT score of 1918.
- More than 1,260 International Baccalaureate students were enrolled at UF in February 2014 — more than any other university in the United States.
- UF’s research and development expenditures totaled $740 million in 2011, placing UF 12th among public universities nationally, up from 14th the previous year.
- The Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator in 2013 was ranked “World’s Best University Biotechnology Incubator” according to an international study.
- UF ranked 11th among universities in the number of U.S. patent applications in 2012.
- UF ranked fourth in the number of start-up companies created in 2012.
- UF is home to one of the world’s largest butterfly and moth collections, with more than 9 million specimens.
- UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute is a national model for using interdisciplinary research methods to identify, prevent and treat human, animal and plant pathogens.
• UF has world-class cultural and artistic venues, including the Florida Museum of Natural History, Harn Museum of Art, and Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.
• UF’s Health Science Center serves as the major referral center for patients in the southeastern United States, and provides excellent health and dental services in Gainesville.
• The university libraries form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida, containing more than 5.6 million volumes, 7.9 million microfilms and 158,695 full-text electronic journals.
• The Florida athletic program has won a total of 31 national team titles, including 22 since 1992. The commitment to comprehensive success is evident in the fact that 12 different Gator sports have won a national title, a total that stands fourth all-time among the nation’s athletic programs.

More than 367,000 alumni are located throughout the world. University of Florida graduates can be found in all 50 states and more than 135 countries, truly demonstrating that the Gator Nation is everywhere.

**Entomology and Nematology Research**

Research by faculty members of the department is conducted within the UF/IFAS Florida Agricultural Experimentation Station to discover new scientific knowledge, encourage innovative study and create applications based on sound science—delivering solutions to the challenges facing agriculture, natural resources and life sciences in the state of Florida, our country and the world. This research is classified into six broadly defined areas of inquiry: physiology, biochemistry and genetics; pest management; biological control; nematology; medical, veterinary and urban entomology; and behavior, ecology and systematics. Research on physiology, biochemistry, and genetics increases knowledge of the fundamental regulatory processes governing insect growth and reproduction and is used in developing new strategies and tactics for pest population regulation, and in advancing our basic knowledge of science. Examples include gene
expression; purification, characterization and cloning of neuropeptide hormones; humoral and cellular processes of pathogenesis; tissue culture; identification of DNA and mitochondrial genetic markers; genetic processes affecting hybridization and toxicant resistance; detoxification and induction of detoxifying enzymes; and population genetics.

The subtropical climate of Florida is favorable for insect survival and reproduction, resulting in a considerable number of pest problems. Alien invasive pests can be particularly damaging, especially if they are vectors of plant pathogens that cause highly destructive diseases. Many faculty members on campus and at the RECs conduct research directed at protecting plant and animal health, and the environment. One of the preferred tactics is biological control, so several faculty members are specialists in that field. We recognize the need to protect humans and the environment from chemical pollutants, to maintain a rapidly changing and diverse agricultural economy, and to provide insect and nematode management within the context of increasing urbanization. All aspects of nematology may be studied by our faculty, including parasitic, free-living, marine, animal-parasitic, and entomopathogenic nematodes. The faculty seeks to improve the quality of a rapidly changing agricultural economy by providing safe and effective methods for managing nematodes. These pests, along with insects, cause significant losses to agricultural food, feed and fiber crops, as well as creating problems in the urban environment.

The department has a major commitment to conduct research in medical, veterinary and urban entomology because associated pests are especially severe under Florida's subtropical and tropical conditions. A large contingent of faculty works at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach and there are experts at the USDA Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology Laboratory in Gainesville. There is considerable interest and expertise in behavior, ecology and systematics in the department. Organisms of interest include fireflies, ants, leaf-footed

Drs. Phil Lounibos, Michael Reiskind, Cynthia Lord, Stephanie Richards, and Walter Tabachnick evaluate A. albopictus larval development in used tires at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory.

Dr. Andrea Lucky directs the School of Ants project, a citizen-scientist driven study of the ants that live in urban areas, particularly around homes and schools.
bugs, butterflies, moths, nematodes, and many others. Expertise on a wide range of insect and nematode taxa is available in-house and also through cooperation with taxonomists working at the Division of Plant Industry, the Allyn Museum of Entomology, the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera Research, the University of Florida Department of Zoology, and Florida A&M University. The explosive growth of Florida, threatened natural habitats, and a large number of indigenous plants and animals has led to research in conservation and biodiversity. In 2012 and 2013, our faculty statewide obtained more than $18.9 million in external funds and authored 235 refereed publications.

Entomology and Nematology Extension
Faculty of the department are involved in UF/IFAS Extension, a partnership between state, federal and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. They develop education and training materials, participate in classes, engage in computer networking, provide expert consultation, help conduct field days and demonstrations, and deliver information at workshops and other meetings. These and related efforts are coordinated through the Dean and Director of UF/IFAS Extension and county Extension districts and offices. Faculty members (Extension specialists) with high percentages of Extension in their split appointments develop individual Extension programs oriented around their expertise and needs of the clientele they serve.

High-priority Extension initiatives that involve our faculty include:
1) Increasing the sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness of agricultural and horticultural enterprises, 2) Enhancing and protecting water quality, quantity and supply, and 3) Enhancing and conserving Florida's natural resources and environmental quality.¹

The department maintains a website with information about insects, produces Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) Extension publications, has an arthropod image gallery, distributes pest alerts, and manages Featured Creatures, one of the most-viewed sources of insect and nematode information in the country. The faculty frequently contributes information for Solutions for Your Life, the primary electronic outlet for Extension, and produces for-sale publications for the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore.

Our featured Extension programs include the UF Bee College, Pest Management University, IPM Florida, and the Southeast Pest Management Conference. Statewide diagnostic support is provided by the Insect ID Lab and the Nematode Assay Lab. The faculty members work closely with Florida's commodity groups, such as the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Florida

¹ [http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/roadmap.shtml](http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/roadmap.shtml)
Cattlemen’s Association, Florida Turfgrass Association, Florida Pest Management Association, and many others. Key stakeholders include the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry; USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA, Agricultural Research Service; USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and Florida A&M University.

**Entomology and Nematology Teaching**

The University of Florida’s Entomology and Nematology Department is Florida’s premier academic and research program in the area of invertebrate biology. We provide students with an opportunity to learn about biology in a flexible and supportive environment. We provide students with both intellectual growth and economic gain (employment) that can be found in few, if any, other biological disciplines. We offer six different degree specializations in our Bachelor of Science Degree program, including pre-professional, basic science, plant protection, biosecurity, ecotourism and urban pest management. Our advisors help students chart a course that fits their individual needs including opportunities for undergraduate research, pre-professional experiences, industry and ecotourism internships, public speaking, and study abroad experiences. Undergraduate students also have the opportunity to participate in the Entomology and Nematology Student Organization, the Beekeeping Club, and the Urban Entomological Society.

Entomology at the University of Florida is classified as a “found” major, where undergraduates gain an appreciation of the discipline through an introduction in a general education entomology class. Many of our 40 entomology majors were introduced to the discipline through one of our general education courses such as Bugs and People, ENY 1001, and The Insects, ENY 2040. The baccalaureate degree in entomology at the University of Florida requires 120 credit hours. Students may complete all 120 hours here at the University of Florida, or may complete 60 credits in general studies at a community college and then transfer to complete the major with more specialized courses. Many courses are offered online, providing flexibility to the student’s schedule. A minor in Entomology and Nematology is offered, and the major is offered at both the Gainesville and Ft. Lauderdale campuses.
Our graduate program is one of the largest in CALS, with enrollment ranging from 104 to 132 over the last seven years. We offer the Ph.D. and M.S. with thesis in Entomology and Nematology, and an online, self-funded, non-thesis M.S. with Entomology or Pest Management specializations. The online program began in 2007 and is one of only two in the United States. Enrollment has increased every year to meet the needs of place-bound professionals working in Extension, teaching, government agencies, and industry. Graduate Ph.D. students make up about two-thirds of our graduate students, with thesis M.S. students and online M.S. students making up the remaining one-third of the graduate student body.

Entomology and Nematology faculty on the Gainesville campus and at all of the RECs supervise graduate students, providing a wide array of research opportunities from field-based applied research to basic science. All of our core entomology courses can be delivered to students at their Research and Education Center home base through online and live-streaming technologies allowing students to complete their degree programs entirely off-campus.

Between our investments in videoconferencing, delivery to RECs, and our completely web-based online M.S. degree programs, the Entomology and Nematology Department boasts one of the most technologically advanced infrastructures in the nation for distance education to reach both students and our Extension clientele.

The interdisciplinary Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) program is housed in the Entomology and Nematology Department. It is an intensive, doctorate-level training program for students interested in plant health diagnosis and management. DPM students complete rigorous coursework and substantial internship requirements instead of a traditional Ph.D. dissertation. The core competency learning areas of the DPM program include plant, soil, and weed science; plant pathology; and entomology and nematology. The DPM program is a partnership among faculty mentors and teaching faculty within the departments of Entomology and Nematology, Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Horticultural Sciences, etc.
Environmental Horticulture, Soil and Water Sciences, and Forest Resources and Conservation. The University of Florida DPM program began in 1999 and has over 65 alumni employed in academia, industry and government. Administration of the DPM program consists of a Director and a Program Assistant within the Entomology and Nematology Department. Many of our faculty chair and serve on DPM student committees.

**Entomology and Nematology Outreach**

The department’s outreach program inspires both students and educators to explore science and nature. Entomology is an appealing subject that facilitates science education and can be used to promote learning. Our outreach program is designed to increase awareness and enthusiasm for insects and other arthropods. Informative presentations are given to groups of all sizes and ages with live organisms and organized hands-on activities. Each spring, we host the BugFest Open House to showcase the entomology major and encourage high school and college students to enroll in our department. Entomology student “ambassadors” who participate in this and other outreach activities provide service to the department and build their communication skills. Student outreach presentations include inquiry based learning activities where participants use simple methods to investigate phenomena, including observations of live arthropods, to extend their ability to make accurate observations and generate data. This outreach program not only provides resources for educators and 4-H Extension agents who want to utilize insects in their classrooms, but also puts a face on science by enabling youth to communicate directly with entomologists and entomology students. The outreach program provides resources and learning opportunities for educators and youth through the department’s website, Florida 4-H Bug Club website, the Entomology Field Camp, nature-based science workshops, Insect Encounters at the Florida State Fair, entomology curriculum, and a variety of outreach activities in both formal and informal settings. Through these events, we reach in excess of 70,000 students and educators each year.

*The UF BugFest Open House is an entomology promotion and student recruitment event that takes place each spring at Steinmetz Hall.*
Entomology and Nematology Service

The faculty contributes an exceptionally high level of service to the department, IFAS, UF, the fields of entomology and nematology, and the community. In addition to outreach activities, faculty members can serve on one of four departmental standing committees: Administrative Advisory, Graduate, Undergraduate, and Honors and Awards. Ad hoc committees include the chair’s advisory committee and periodic special committees. Faculty members often serve as advisors to student organizations. Formal service to IFAS can be on the Faculty Assembly, Tenure and Promotion Committee, Curriculum Committee, annual Tailgator, Extension Leadership Team, and Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council, for example.

At the university level there are opportunities to serve on the Faculty Senate, Academic Personnel Board, Commencement Committee, Council On Diversity, Environmental Health and Safety Committee, Minority Mentor Program Council, and many others. There is a multitude of less formal ways to provide service both inside and outside of UF. Outside, our faculty members serve as officers and committee members in scientific societies, journal editors and manuscript reviewers, invited and volunteer speakers, chairs and members of advisory committees, grant panel members, mentors for students and colleagues, and in a range of other service and leadership roles. Faculty members attend social functions, such as student events, receptions, retirements, building dedications, professional society inductions, service clubs, and are general ambassadors for the department, IFAS and UF.
UF/IFAS maintains 18 Research and Education Centers, and Demonstration Sites (RECs and RDSs); Entomology and Nematology faculty are stationed at 11 of the RECs. The oldest and largest REC is the Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) at Lake Alfred, Florida. For the past 97 years, CREC has provided the citrus industry with scientific and technological support through its research, Extension, and teaching programs. CREC is the largest center in the world devoted to a single commodity, citrus. The Center employs about 250 people and is also home to the scientific research staff of the Florida Department of Citrus. CREC scientists and engineers discover and deliver innovative solutions that empower citrus and other agricultural interests to conduct responsible and profitable business. Fostering scientific excellence and efficient use of resources, CREC personnel have made several key discoveries and technological advancements that have been pivotal to the citrus industry.

Entomology and Nematology Department Resources
The department is housed in Steinmetz Hall, named after one of our primary benefactors. Steinmetz Hall is comprised of two buildings, a smaller administrative and support building and a larger building for faculty offices and laboratories. The faculty building has a beautiful courtyard with a fountain, butterfly garden, and break area. Behind Steinmetz Hall is a separate Urban Entomology Building. Classrooms of various sizes are equipped to send and receive distance education. Our department has 19 greenhouses located immediately behind Steinmetz Hall and several more elsewhere on campus. Surrounding these facilities are

1. [http://ifas.ufl.edu](http://ifas.ufl.edu)
2. [http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/)
open and wooded areas, a pond, pavilion, and hiking trails. The department is located on the southwest corner of the UF campus with easy access and ample parking.

Adjacent to, and managed by, our department is the UF Natural Area Teaching Laboratory. This 66-acre tract of undeveloped land is maintained in its natural state with native vegetation. It is used extensively as an outdoor laboratory for research, outreach and many of our classes. It also gets used by other groups, such as UF/IFAS departments, 4-H clubs, public schools, and community organizations. It is a great place for our faculty, staff, and students to have a picnic, walk and enjoy nature.

Additionally, the department has a variety of valuable resources that support research, Extension, and education programs. Endowments currently total $4 million used for student scholarships and assistantships. Other resources include office and support staff, an IT professional, a grants specialist, a stockroom manager, an insect identifier and photographer, and a graphics artist. A graphics and communications studio is staffed and available to assist faculty with preparation of displays, brochures, posters, web pages, and publications. A monthly newsletter keeps people informed about our department’s activities.

Resources Available to Entomology and Nematology Faculty

The UF Office of Research has 11 centers and institutes with campus-wide missions\(^1\): Center for Smell and Taste, Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI), Florida Climate Institute, Florida Energy Systems Consortium, Informatics Institute, Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, Nanoscience Institute for Medical and Engineering Technology, UF Genetics Institute, and the Water Institute.

\(^1\) [http://research.ufl.edu/or/about/centers-and-institutes.html](http://research.ufl.edu/or/about/centers-and-institutes.html)
These core laboratories and shared facilities are maintained by UF colleges, departments, centers and institutes to provide sophisticated equipment and expertise to facilitate research across a range of disciplines.

The Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI) was founded in 2006 and focuses on the health of humans, animals, and the environment. Certain of our Entomology and Nematology faculty are located at the EPI. Florida is particularly vulnerable to new pathogens due to its wide range of temperate, subtropical and tropical ecosystems, as well as its diverse agriculture. Florida's unique geography and climate require specialized disease prevention and control strategies. Researchers at EPI merge key disciplines, including entomology, to develop research capabilities designed to preserve Florida's health and economy, and to prevent or contain new and reemerging diseases.

The well established Genetics Institute (UFGI) is highly competitive with other university genetics programs. It promotes excellence in the areas of genetics and genomics. Its philosophy is that truly innovative ideas and novel insights arise at the interfaces between scientific disciplines. The Institute is dedicated to applying the tools of genetics in a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment to address difficult scientific problems and challenges. The UFGI has more than 230 faculty members from seven different colleges applying genetic approaches to diverse scientific topics ranging from biofuels development to wound healing, to plant breeding to gene therapy. All University of Florida faculty members whose scholarship aligns with the mission of the UFGI are welcome to apply for membership.

The Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research (ICBR) provides extraordinary support services and facilitated access to cutting-edge scientific technology for University of Florida faculty, staff and

Professor Jeff Bloomquist, shown in his lab at the Emerging Pathogens Institute, is part of a research team developing insecticides that kill mosquitoes but are harmless to other organisms.

The UF Cancer and Genetics Research Complex on the main campus in Gainesville is the largest research building under one roof in Florida.
graduate students, as well as research and commercial partners worldwide. Founded in 1987, ICBR has a rich history of enabling life science researchers by allowing scientists to focus on their research without the burden of developing and maintaining the infrastructure and expertise to support ever-changing technologies. ICBR’s laboratories represent a diverse biotechnology landscape and are organized into eight cores: bioinformatics, electron microscopy, gene expression and genotyping, monoclonal antibody, NextGen DNA sequencing, Sanger sequencing, and proteomics. Providing more than 400 different services ranging from custom and high-throughput DNA sequencing to electron microscopy and antibody development and production, ICBR is available to faculty of the Entomology and Nematology Department.

The Gainesville area has the largest population of entomologists and nematologists per capita in the United States, many of whom collaborate with the Entomology and Nematology Department faculty. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Bureaus of Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology house a number of regulatory entomologists and nematologists who are important collaborators. They contribute taxonomic expertise to our Extension programs, provide internships to our students, serve on graduate committees, lecture, and sometimes teach classes. Also located near the department on the UF campus, USDA-ARS, Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology scientists work with our faculty and students on numerous research projects and several have been appointed as faculty in our department, thereby serving on graduate student committees. The McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, part of the Florida Museum of Natural History, is located about 300 yards from the department. Some of the McGuire entomologists have dual appointments in the Entomology and Nematology Department; others are courtesy faculty. McGuire entomologists serve on graduate committees, lecture and teach classes. Many of our graduate students are funded by the McGuire Center.

A short distance south of Gainesville is the Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU). This >1,000-acre research farm is the primary field research facility used by our on-campus faculty. It supports research on everything from cabbage to citrus, turfgrass to tomatoes, and beef to bees. It is equipped with all the farm equipment needed to grow almost anything. The facility includes greenhouses, a mechanic shop, pesticide and fertilizer storage buildings, dryers, and freezers. There also are storage, laboratory and office spaces available for cooperating faculty. The PSREU has a conference center and classrooms that are used by the Entomology and Nematology Department faculty for teaching and Extension.
Gainesville and the Surrounding Area
The UF campus is located in Gainesville, the largest city and county seat of Alachua County, with a resident population of about 125,000. Gainesville serves as the cultural, educational and commercial center for North Central Florida. The city provides a full range of municipal services, including a regional transit system and municipal airport, and is one of the state's centers of education, medicine, cultural events, and athletics. Athletics at UF are among the nation's best, so college sports enthusiasts have their choice of quality events to enjoy.

Known for its preservation of historic buildings and the beauty of its natural surroundings, Gainesville's numerous parks, museums and lakes provide ample recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors. The University attracts world-class cultural entertainment and for outdoor enthusiasts North Central Florida is truly a paradise, having numerous forests, rivers, lakes, springs and the nearby Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Gainesville is known for its fishing, boating, equestrian activities, golf, hiking, and biking. It's one of the most attractive cities in Florida, especially because of its beautiful forested landscape. The area basks in Gulf breezes that make summer days warm and nights cool, and produce dry and mild winters.

Gainesville is about a two-hour drive from Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Tampa, St. Augustine, Cedar Key, Orlando (Disney World, Universal Studios, Busch Gardens), and a plethora of state and national parks. The city has a 6% retail sales tax, homestead property exemption up to $50,000 per year, and no state personal income or inheritance taxes. In addition to UF, Gainesville is home to Santa Fe College which offers both two- and four-year degree programs. The Alachua County School District is among the top performing school districts in Florida, and International Baccalaureate and Cambridge programs are offered at certain area high schools. Due primarily to the University of Florida teaching hospital, medical care is outstanding.

1 http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Community/AboutGainesville.aspx

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida’s “Government in the Sunshine” and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.