

I hope that everyone is now settled in for the Spring semester after the extended drop/add period and the excitement of the Gators winning the national football championship. This newsletter contains reminders for graduating students and summer research opportunities.

#### Graduating Students:

In order to get a diploma you need to apply to graduate - it does not happen automatically. You apply to graduate at the Registrar (222 Criser Hall). The deadline this semester is February 2. You can find other information about commencement including how to order regalia and a graduating check list at <http://registrar.ufl.edu/commencement/> . The Academic Advising Center also has a FAQ at <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/faq/seniorgradfaq.html> .

After you apply to graduate, the Academic Advising Center will then make sure you have satisfied the requirements to graduate. Your transcript will be forwarded to the Physics department to make sure that you have satisfied all the Physics requirements to graduate. At that time I will make any remaining course substitutions, etc. so that the computer recognizes that you have completed all the requirements to graduate. This is, of course, assuming that you have met them. If you have any questions about whether you have met all the requirements to graduate, you should see an adviser as soon as possible. It is a good idea for all students - not just graduating seniors - to look at the degree requirements for Physics degrees at

[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/reqBS.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBS.html)  
[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/reqBA.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/reqBA.html)  
[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/minor.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/minor.html)

and to look at your on-line audit on ISIS. If you wish to speak to an adviser, the most current advising hours are posted at

[http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/advising.html](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/advising.html) .

Students who have a 3.5 or higher upper division GPA will graduate with honors. Your ISIS audit should tell you whether or not you will receive honors. To receive high or highest honors you must hand in a senior thesis based on research you have done with a faculty member in this department in addition to meeting the GPA requirement. Senior theses are due several weeks before the end of the semester so it is a good idea to start writing now. I will be contacting all students who have honors status based on GPA to see if you are doing a senior thesis.

#### Career Resource Center:

If you intend to look for a job after you graduate as opposed to going to graduate school, then the UF Career Resource Center (CRC) is a tremendous help. The CRC can also help you find an internship with a company before you graduate. With some of our students this has led directly to a job once they graduate. The Spring Career Showcase, where employers visit U.F. to interview graduating seniors, is scheduled for January 23 and 24. This year the first day is devoted to non-technical positions and the second to technical positions. Most Physics majors should attend the second day.

If you plan to attend the Career Showcase, then you should prepare ahead of time. You need to register with the Career Resource Center, <http://www.crc.ufl.edu> . The CRC has a number of workshops to help you prepare for the Showcase. They cover such topics as resume preparation, making a one-minute commercial about yourself, and getting on-campus

interviews. They will even critique your resume. As a Physics major this is very important because you need to market yourself based on your skills. I also discuss the Career Showcase in the September 2006 newsletter, [http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/newsletters/sept06.pdf](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/newsletters/sept06.pdf) .

#### Other Career Information

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Many of you are already applying to a graduate school in Physics or a related field like engineering. In the last few years some of our students gone on to the following programs.

**Masters of Science in Management:** This is a 10 month program run by the College of Business Administration designed specifically for students who did not get an undergraduate degree in business. Information on the program can be found at <http://www.cba.ufl.edu/msm>

**Medical Physics:** Many hospitals are now hiring students with graduate degrees in Medical Physics to run their imaging equipment and radiation therapy. UF has had a Medical Physics program for a number of years (see [http://www.nre.ufl.edu/academic\\_progs/medphys.php](http://www.nre.ufl.edu/academic_progs/medphys.php)) and new ones are opening up all the time. Recently, Duke University started a Medical Physics program: <http://www.medicalphysics.duke.edu> .

#### Summer Research:

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If you have not already done so, now is the time to apply for summer research programs. In the December 2006 newsletter I discussed undergraduate research ([http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad\\_program/newsletters/dec06.pdf](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/undergrad_program/newsletters/dec06.pdf)). The two programs which our students apply to are the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs and the University Scholars Program, although there are a number of other kinds of programs which are advertised on the Physics Major listserv. There are REU programs across the country - not just at the University of Florida. It is a good idea to apply to more than one program, particularly since the U.F. Physics department can only accept a maximum of 5 of our own undergraduates to our program.

The University Scholars Program is a special U.F. program. Each year we have 2 or 3 students participate in this program. The deadline to apply this year is March 1. Information for both of these programs may be found at

REU programs: [http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu\\_search.cfm](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm)  
University Scholars: <http://www.scholars.ufl.edu>

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Please send questions, comments, or additions to [selman@phys.ufl.edu](mailto:selman@phys.ufl.edu) .