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### **Harn Museum of Art Holds “25 Candles” Birthday Benefit to Support Exhibitions and Programs**

GAINESVILLE, Fla, July 21, 2015— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida will kick off its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a birthday benefit to enrich and sustain Harn exhibitions and programs. “25 Candles” held from 6 p.m. to midnight on Sept. 25, will be the evening before the UF vs. UT football game.

There are a variety of ticket packages from which to choose. Dinner under the stars at the UF Cultural Plaza or cocktail buffet will offer savory cuisine. Entertainment and cupcakes will add to the birthday party vibe. University of Florida Bands will provide multiple instrumental ensembles throughout the Harn featuring genres from jazz to classical. University of Florida a cappella group “No Southern Accent” will also perform and DJ Jarad Bowens of Genius Entertainment will rev up the dancing at the “After Party” beginning at 9 p.m.

Guests will enjoy the antics of the event’s honorary chairs, former UF football player, TV personality and more recently, painter, James Bates and his wife Tina. While his wife will be in attendance, Bates will be broadcast throughout the event from afar showing his support of the Harn through video feed.

*Conversations: A 25th Anniversary Exhibition* will debut on this evening illustrating the growth of the Harn’s collections over the past 25 years and will feature recent works given in honor of the Harn’s anniversary. Guests may socialize with Albert and Alberta, bid on items available for auction and delight in fireworks at dusk while sipping signature cocktails or mocktails. The event’s prism-inspired décor will feature the design work of Keith Watson Productions.

Proceeds from the event will support exhibitions and programs at the Harn. “You must celebrate with us! This is a party with a purpose that impacts UF faculty and students, the larger Gainesville community and visitors to our area.” said Director Rebecca Nagy. “The generosity of members, friends and alumni from around the country is what makes it possible for the Harn to remain a free resource with exceptional programming.”

The Harn Museum of Art offers a range of options for participation in “25 Candles.” Visit [www.harn.ufl.edu/25candles](http://www.harn.ufl.edu/25candles) for more information.

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### **About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art**

For more than a decade prior to the grand opening of the Harn, University of Florida administrators, faculty in the College of Fine Arts, and local arts advocates dreamed of a sizable art museum that would serve the University of Florida and the Gainesville community. In 1983 Dr. David A. Cofrin and his wife Mary Ann made this dream possible and donated a generous founding gift toward the construction of an art museum that would be named after Mary Ann's father Samuel P. Harn. At the time, their \$3 million gift was the largest private gift ever received by the University of Florida. State matching funds were secured to complete the construction.

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 9000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit [www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu).

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