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For immediate release

Experts to speak at UF about identity theft

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- The University of Florida's Information Technology security team will host a program on identity theft at 1 p.m. March 11 in the Reitz Student Union Auditorium. The public is invited.

Guest speaker Brenda Williams of the Alachua County Extension Office will discuss the risks of identity theft and how to protect one's self from becoming a victim of identity theft.

College students are victimized by identity theft more than any other age group. Types of theft include hackers gaining access to personal information from databases, phishing e-mails or popups which persuade users to disclose personal information, and cases like the recent ChoicePoint scam in which personal information was sold to illegitimate organizations. People can protect their identity by limiting the amount of personal information they disclose and being aware of various scams.

During the first hour, Williams will emphasize safe guidelines for personal information such as credit cards, Social Security numbers, bank information and other vulnerable documents. Examples are given for reporting fraudulent activity to credit bureaus, police and other agencies.

During the second half of the session, Jordan Wiens, UF IT Security Team Engineer, will discuss how identity theft beleaguers the Internet. Wiens will focus on strong password protection, phishing and other e-mail scams impacting users.

This event will appeal to a broad range of people, especially those who use a computer for browsing the Internet, making transactions and other online communications.

For updates visit: <http://infosec.ufl.edu/athome/>