

University Wire

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U. Florida professor faces drug charges
By Lourdes Briz, Independent Florida Alligator
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Gainesville, Fla.

Police arrested a University of Florida associate professor Monday after airport security at Gainesville, Fla., Regional Airport found cocaine and methadone on him, according to an arrest report.

Richard Alden Greer, chief of the division of forensic psychiatry at Shands, faces charges of possessing less than 20 grams of cocaine and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

During a security pat-down at the airport, Carolyn McCray, who works for the Globe Security office, found a film container in Greer's right sock. When she asked what was inside the container Greer said "medicine," according to Gainesville Police spokesman Keith Kameg.

McCray then asked him to show her the contents of the canister, but he wanted to do it in private. The canister contained a chopped-off straw and a glass vial that contained a white powder, according to the report. Upon seeing the contents of the canister, McCray contacted security, Kameg said. As security approached, Greer appeared nervous and said, "I can throw it away, it's only medicine."

Globe Security contacted the Gainesville Police Department. Officer Jim Samec and Cpl. Chuck Thomas arrived on the scene and tested the powder, which turned out to be cocaine, the report stated. Security searched Greer's bags and found a prescription bottle with the label torn off. Inside were numerous methadone pills.

Methadone is prescribed to those with heroin and other opioid addictions as a substitute during treatment. It is also used as a painkiller.

Greer said he used the pills for chronic back pain, but had no prescription, according to Kameg. Greer refused to waive the Miranda Warning and said, "Boy, I've f---ked up," the report states.

He was taken to the Alachua County jail and later released on his own recognizance.

According to the College of Medicine Faculty Web site, Greer is to serve as the department representative for psychiatry until April of 2004.