

# the independent florida alligator

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VOLUME 101 ISSUE 100

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008

## While UF bars online voting, FSU approves it

### ■ FSU VOTES ONLINE FEB. 27.

By ILEANA MORALES

Alligator Writer  
imorales@alligator.org

While online voting for Student Government elections was shot down by the UF Supreme

Court, students at Florida State University will vote online for the first time Feb. 27.

UF's court announced at a Student Senate meeting Tuesday night that a constitutional amendment allowing online voting is unconstitutional and would hinder SG's ability to prevent voter

coercion.

The student group Students for Online Voting submitted a petition signed by about 10 percent of the student body to place an amendment on the spring elections ballot that would allow

online voting in elections.

FSU Student Government Association's Sen. Bobby Seifter said voter privacy was also a concern when online voting was proposed in January.

Seifter said before the bill was passed 24-6, senators had a three-hour debate on the risks of

a political party or student organization soliciting votes. Senators concluded any possible violations to voter secrecy were already listed as illegal in FSU's statutes, he said.

To help prevent large-scale forced voting, he said no more than four people can vote on one

SEE FSU, PAGE 10

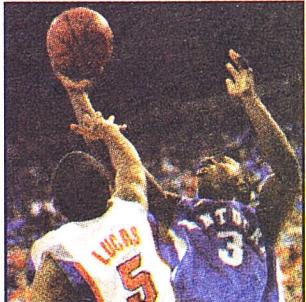


Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

### Hands Across the Plaza

UF sophomore Larry Rosalez-Lewis, left, holds hands with freshman Ricky Lievig as sophomore Wilton Mui watches Thursday. See story, Page 4.

■ Almost three weeks ago, UF was riding high after blowing out Vandy. Now, Jai Lucas and the Gators have lost three of four and will head to the 'Dores' home court on Saturday. See Story, Page 20.



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■ Superdelegates are becoming more integral to the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. But what's a superdelegate? See story, Page 4.

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Partly  
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75/46

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**News Today****WHAT'S HAPPENING****'Handling a Police Encounter'**

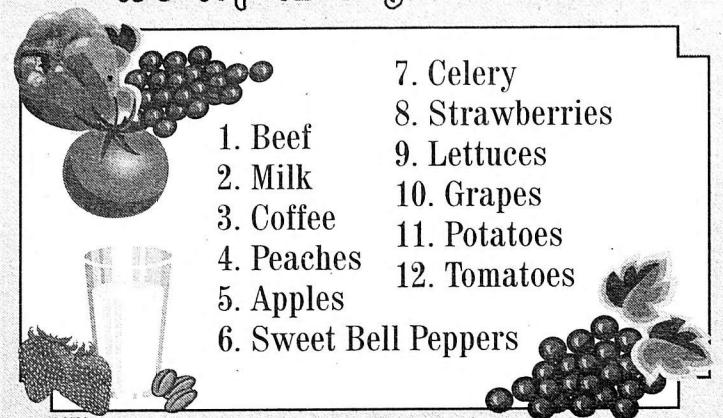
Reitz Union Room 346, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., today  
Attorneys from Student Legal Services and the local legal community will address questions and issues involving your rights when approached by law enforcement.

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Reitz Union Grand Ballroom, 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., tonight  
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**LIVING**

## The Dirty Dozen: The Top 12 Organic Foods



Source: MSN.

1. Beef	7. Celery
2. Milk	8. Strawberries
3. Coffee	9. Lettuces
4. Peaches	10. Grapes
5. Apples	11. Potatoes
6. Sweet Bell Peppers	12. Tomatoes

Vicky Cabrera and Mikala Kuchera / Alligator Staff

**FORECAST**

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY
75/46	76/53	81/57	71/38	64/35

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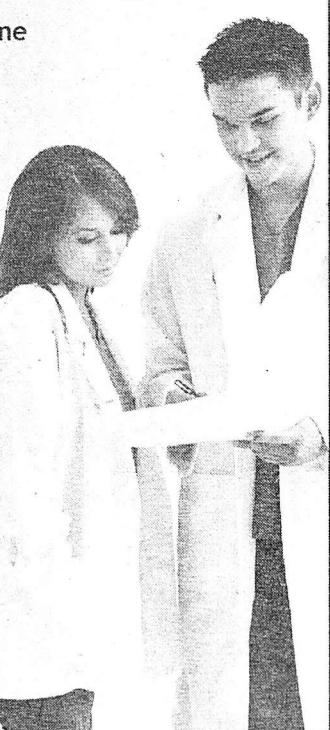
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## UF ACADEMICS

# High school students learn UF admission status today

By LIA GANOSELLIS

Alligator Writer  
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The UF Office of Admissions has been working around the clock for the past few days determining the future of nearly 28,000 Gators hopefuls, and only about one-third of them will receive an invitation Friday.

UF received about 1,000 more applications than last year, which UF Provost Janie Fouke said is likely due in part to UF's recent athletic successes, namely the football and basketball teams' championship titles.

In addition, the academic competitiveness in Florida is steadily

increasing, Fouke said.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said the target size of the 2008-2009 freshmen class size is slightly more than 10,000, but about 6,600 are expected to come to UF.

Orlando said the swell in freshmen applications might have to do with the elimination of the early decision process.

This is the first year UF didn't accept early decision applications, which contractually bound students to attend UF if accepted. Early decision applicants received a response from UF months before students who applied by the regular deadline.

There is one more deadline, March 1, for students who missed

the original November deadline, Orlando said. Those students will be notified about their admissions status by April.

**"It was sort of like leveling the playing field for everybody."**

**Janie Fouke**  
UF provost

UF's reasoning for ditching early decision was that students from low-income families could have been discouraged from applying before they knew how much financial aid they would receive.

Fouke said she thought getting

rid of the early decision process simplified the entire application system.

"It was sort of like leveling the playing field for everybody," she said.

Still, she said, UF doesn't have room to accept everyone, which forces the admissions office to turn away many qualified applicants.

"I think people equate whether or not they get in somehow with their competency, and that's just not true at all," Fouke said. "There's just not enough room."

Leading up today, some high school students weighed their chances about getting in.

Sistine Gurrey, a St. Thomas Aquinas High School senior in Fort

Lauderdale, said her nerves were on edge while she waited for "judgment day."

Gurrey said she applied to several other universities, including Syracuse University, the University of Central Florida and the University of North Carolina, but she has her heart set on UF.

Clay Green, a high school senior at Fort Myers High School, said UF is his top choice because his father is a UF alumnus.

He said he worried that UF favored International Baccalaureate students, which he's not, but said his above-average GPA and test scores should help him out.

"I just always wanted to go there since I was a little kid," Green said.

## County needs more members for male support group

**■ SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS TREATED BASED ON GENDER.**

By ILEANA MORALES

Alligator Writer  
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An Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center support group for male victims of sexual assault is on hold until enough people join.

Rita Lawrence, victim advocate counselor, said the center planned to start the group in January, but with only two people ready to join they will wait until they have at least three.

Lawrence said that she noticed men's specific needs were not being met in the coed groups. Society treats genders differently, and male survivors of sexual assault face different stereotypes, she said.

Separating support groups by gender is being done in other areas and seeing better

results because victims feel more comfortable speaking among people of the same sex, she said.

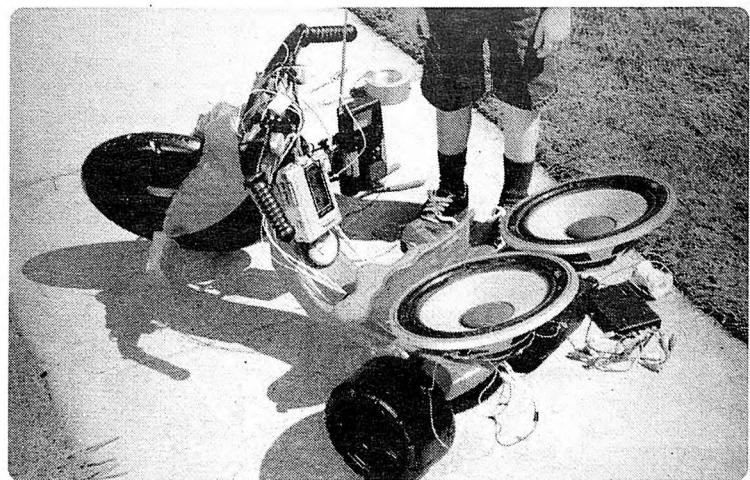
Anna Savitsky, a victim advocate counselor for the center, said most male rape victims don't report their experiences, and of those, only five percent participate in support services.

Savitsky said being victimized is generally associated with females, and men are held to a high standard of masculinity.

Jay Herron, who was raped for the first time at a military detention center when he was 18, said society hasn't fully realized that men, not only women, are sexually assaulted.

Herron, now 57 and living in Levy County, said after spending years trying to deal with his trauma through drug and alcohol abuse, he has now dealt with it better by sharing his story with others.

This separate support group for men is important to speed up their healing process, he said.



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# Students join hands

■ HAND-HOLDING EVENT TARGETS DISCRIMINATION.

**By ELIZABETH LEVA**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Members of UF's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs joined hands for a cause on Valentine's Day.

Dozens of members of the group, known as LGBT, attended the 8th annual Same-Sex Hand-Holding Day on Turlington Plaza Thursday.

Nora Spencer, director of LGBT, said UF's Dean of Students Office sponsored the event to provide members of the homosexual community a chance to show love in public free of criticism or danger.

Wilton Mui, an environmental engineering junior, said being gay and single narrows down the options for a place to celebrate Valentine's Day, so the event was perfect for him.

"Valentine's Day is predominantly hetero-normative," Mui said. "All the commercials you see focus on heterosexual couples, but we celebrate the holiday, too."

Tiffany Richards, a UF sophomore, said she viewed Same-Sex Hand-Holding Day in a new light since her attendance last

year.

In fall 2007, Richards and her girlfriend of the time were holding hands on campus when a man shouted, "That's disgusting," she said.

"I always took other people's acceptance of my lifestyle for granted," she said. "But after that experience, I really appreciate holding hands in a place free from discrimination."

Spencer said society has a long way to go to overcome a historic discrimination of gays.

"Luckily, I have never experienced the violent attacks for my sexuality that many others have," she said.

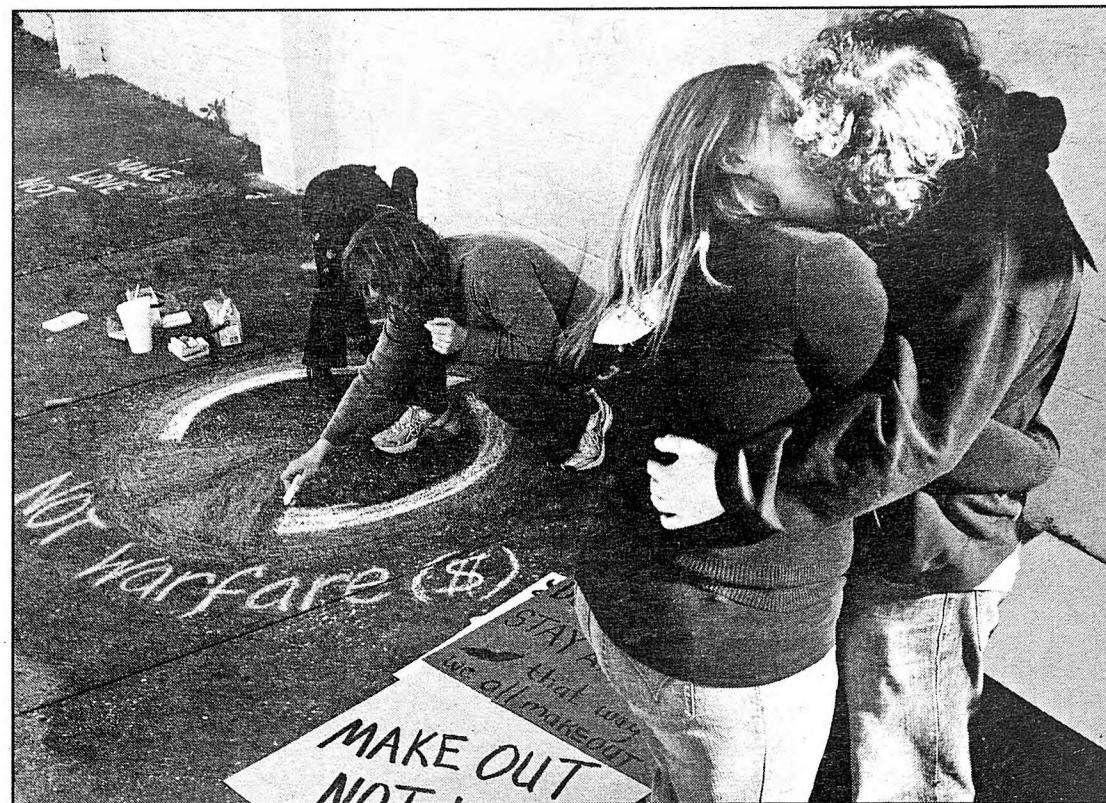
On **Campus** Junior Lofton, the cross-wearing, Bible-wielding preacher usually found on Turlington Plaza, did not attend the event.

Days before, Lofton said he loves homosexuals in the same way he loves the drug addicts.

"They don't have a disease," he said. "They deliberately chose to sin, and I can help them deliberately choose to stop."

Sean McCaughan, an art history junior, said he does not take Turlington preachers seriously.

"Yeah, I made out with a guy right in front of him before," McCaughan said. "It made me proud."



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

## Kissing for a Cause

UF students Caitlyn Kloss and Ben Klein kiss while Kristina Jackson draws a peace sign on the sidewalk with her daughter Lucinda outside the 13th Street National Guard Recruiting Station Thursday. The Make Out, Not War! Kiss-In was organized by several Gainesville anti-war groups and staged to coincide with other protests around the country at recruiting stations.

## ELECTIONS

# Controversial superdelegates influence Dem. nomination

**By DREW HARWELL**  
Alligator Staff Writer  
dharwell@alligator.org

Change. Momentum. Electability.

The presidential primary season has been inundated with buzzwords like these, abstract concepts with arguable significance that candidates and journalists have clung to.

But one cliche, the headline-hogging "superdelegate," has gained notoriety in the past months for two other reasons: how vital it is to the Democratic candidates, and how confusing it can be to the average voter.

Superdelegates — also known as unpledged delegates, as they can change their candidate allegiances at will — make up about 20 percent of the total number of delegates who will go on to determine the presidential nominee at the Democratic National Convention in August.

In other words, the popular votes from each state's primary make up only a part of the decision. One-fifth of the nomination is decided by a closed group of party elites.

Democratic candidate Barack Obama is a superdelegate. So is candidate Hillary Clinton, as well as her husband, former president Bill Clinton.

Former candidates Bill Richardson, Joseph Biden and Christopher Dodd, as well as former president Jimmy Carter and vice presidents Walter Mondale and Al Gore, are all privileged enough to get the magic vote.

So how does the Democratic Party choose who can become one?

According to the Democratic National Committee's Delegate Selection Rules, there are 719 named superdelegates so far, composed of all the country's Democratic

members of Congress, governors, party leaders, former legislators and committee members, as well as a certain number of well-liked activists.

Later on in the year, the state parties will announce 76 additional superdelegates, bringing the total to 795.

But, of course, it's not that simple. If Florida and Michigan hadn't had their delegates revoked by the party for scheduling their primaries too early, 50 more superdelegates would be added to the total.

And don't forget that the eight superdelegates representing Democrats Abroad, the party's organization for American voters in foreign countries, get only half votes.

Huh? This whole superdelegate thing gets pretty confusing, pretty quickly.

One could say their power goes against the nature of democratic elections, which postures "one voter equals one vote."

One could say they hold too much weight; as a group, the 795 superdelegates have more votes than all the voters in California and New York combined.

And a true cynic could argue that any one superdelegate holds more power than the millions of people in Florida whose votes won't count toward the nomination.

"When you've got this many primaries and caucuses," said Allan Katz, a superdelegate and Tallahassee City Commissioner, "that ought to be the determiner of the contest, whether it's my guy or your guy."

Katz was granted the superdelegate vote when he joined the Democratic National Committee in 2004. However, due to Florida's punishment, he and other Florida superdelegates won't be allowed to use their votes in this election.

Although Katz admitted that the system "could go bad for the Democratic Party" if superdelegates had to vote against a can-

didate with a large following, he added that it's one of the only viable alternatives to a gridlocked candidate race.

Superdelegates are a relatively recent addition to the nominating process of the Democratic Party, which introduced them in 1982 as a way for influential party big shots to hold more sway.

Or, as Katz explained it, the convention was "such a cool party that, all of a sudden, everyone wanted to go."

**"If we didn't know by June, then who is going to decide anyway?"**

**Zach Moller**  
president of the UF College Democrats

As displayed by the 1984 presidential nomination of candidate Walter Mondale, who only had a slim lead before superdelegates secured his win, history shows that these delegates can have the power to decide the race.

That fact has scared some voters, who think the superdelegates could tip the scales toward one favored candidate.

However, Michael Martinez, a UF associate professor of political science, said the superdelegate system will most likely "not vault the second candidate into first place."

Instead, he said it will make it easier for party officials to choose a winner already in the lead.

"They're a good tiebreaker to have," Martinez said.

Obama and Clinton disagree on how the superdelegates should function.

On Friday, Obama told reporters that "it would be problematic for political insiders to overturn the judgment of the voters" if he won popular appeal.

Clinton, who has more support from

superdelegates than her opponent according to Associated Press estimates, fired back the next day by saying the delegates "are by design supposed to exercise independent judgment."

Regardless of what position the candidates have taken, neither has relaxed in their efforts to win over the superdelegates' votes.

"Clearly, there's been a big move by both campaigns to get superdelegates on board with their candidates, but you would expect that," Katz said.

According to an online running tally of superdelegates coordinated by The Politico, a political news source founded by former Washington Post employees, Clinton's campaign has been promised about 90 more superdelegates than Obama's.

But the superdelegate statistics are fuzzy for several reasons.

Media outlets like The New York Times and the Associated Press disagree on the exact numbers. Superdelegates can change their minds at any time before the convention. And more than 300 superdelegates are still uncommitted, undecided or staying quiet.

The system has also produced some strange results. According to AP reports, Maryland has three times as many superdelegates planning to vote for Clinton than Obama, even though he won the state with about 60 percent of the vote.

But although the system has its quirks, Zach Moller, the president of the UF College Democrats, said the superdelegates could serve as a vital fallback in the case that the race is undetermined at the end of the primary season.

"If we didn't know by June, then who is going to decide anyway?" Moller said. "At some level, the decision has to be made."

# UF releases 15 proposals for BOT

## ■ ONE MAY ALLOW ALCOHOL SALES AT MUSEUM.

How much would a stuffed caveman pay for a stiff drink? How many shots would it take for a giant mastodon skeleton to get loose?

UF could soon learn the answers if the Board of Trustees, UF's highest governing body, passes a proposed regulation at its March meeting to allow alcohol sales at the Florida Museum of Natural History. UF Provost Janie Fouke wrote in an e-mail that selling alcohol at the museum would encourage more community groups to rent out the facility, which would bring more money to UF.

Currently, groups who want to serve alcohol during museum events must buy it but are not allowed to sell it to guests to cover the cost, Fouke wrote. Instead, they must give it away at a loss, which discourages them from hosting events at the museum.

— KIM WILMATH

The suggestions don't stop at primeval boozing.

A total of 15 proposals were sent out to UF's deans, directors and department chairs in a memo Wednesday afternoon.

Seven of the suggestions concerned traffic and parking, including increasing student parking rates from \$110 a year to \$122.

**UF Administration** proposed rate for motorcycle or scooter decals is also \$122 a year — up from \$36 annually.

Another suggestion is to formally allow armored cars on campus to carry guns.

Steve Orlando, UF spokesman, said armored cars deliver cash to campus ATMs or businesses. Passengers or drivers of the cars are usually armed, and the proposed regulation would make it officially OK, Orlando said.

— KIM WILMATH

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# UF students to bike across U.S. They will help build houses

By DAYNA MALEK

Alligator Contributing Writer

Armed with hammers, screwdrivers and road bicycles, 10 UF students will depart from various cities this summer with the mission of spreading the word on affordable housing.

The group is part of a larger pool of college-aged students participating in the cycling trips run by Bike & Build, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for affordable housing projects by having participants pedal across the country.

"Driving from coast to coast is pretty crazy, doing so by bicycle is even crazier," said Sara Tolliver, a UF zoology junior who will be riding on the Southern U.S. route that leaves from Jacksonville.

Bike & Build was founded in 2002, said Program Director Brendan Newman.

"The program is really about raising awareness for affordable housing as well as getting the participants interested in the cause and community service," Newman said in a phone interview.

About 215 participants will choose from seven different routes to ride across the country. Riders bike for nine weeks and by the end will have pedaled between 3,428 miles and 4,234 miles, according to the Web site. Riders will average 60 miles a day, Newman said.

Many might wonder why the organization chose bicycles, but for Newman, they seemed to be the simplest choice.

"Biking is awesome," he said. "Bicycles are the perfect vehicle for this kind of trip in this magnitude."

Cyclists will ride from community to community, sleeping along the way in churches, community centers and schools.

Bike & Build works with a variety of housing organizations. In addition to building, the participants raise money to disburse to the organizations.

In order to participate, riders have to raise a minimum of \$4,000 in donations. Once the money is raised, Bike & Build will provide riders with their own bicycle.

The organization allocates the majority of donations from its events through either pre-arranged contributions or a competitive grant application process. So far, the organization has raised about \$1.1 million.

"This year we are hoping to donate close to \$450,000, and that will put us at about \$1.6 million donated so far," Newman said.

No previous cycling experience is required and for most of the participants, the idea of riding across the nation adds to the excitement.

"It's a matter of the sheer insanity that it is," Tolliver said. "To bike from coast to coast is sort of this crazy, romantic idea."

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**union.ufl.edu/gatornights**  
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**Editorial**

**W**ell, the good news is that it's Friday, which means you've managed to make it through another Valentine's Day. The weekend ahead is sure to be free of anything forcibly romantic — unless of course you're into that sort of thing. Here at the Darts & Laurels headquarters, we had tons of fun reading over the sappy Heartlines and laughing at those pink-and-red-clad coeds schlepping around campus with a bunch of carnations. So sit back, grab a box full of those candy hearts and join us for this week's edition of...

**Darts & Laurels**

Of course we couldn't start off this edition without handing over a great-job-coming-up-with-a-lame-excuse **DART** to the **UF Supreme Court** for announcing Tuesday night that an online voting system in Student Government elections would be unconstitutional.

The court's Chief Justice Brian Aungst said online voting would interfere with SG's ability to prevent voter coercion. So, he's naturally assuming that SG ever had that ability from the beginning.

What we really don't get is how officials elected to represent the student body could be so out of touch with what the majority actually wants. Maybe they should get off those BlackBerrys once in a while and talk to those they're supposed to be representing — hey, just a thought. If FSU can pass online voting with no problem, it makes us wonder what the hell is going on here.

We had more high hopes Tuesday, but like an unattractive blind date, we were once again disappointed. The do-you-really-think-it's-a-good-time-for-another-condo **DART** goes to the **Alachua County Commission** for approving the Gainesville Golf and Country Club's expansion near the edge of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Although the county's Growth Management Department did not recommend approving the proposal, the commissioners went ahead and sent it up to the state level. We're just hoping that those in Tallahassee will have more sense and shoot it down.

It became apparent this week that lawmakers in Washington, D.C., also lack common sense — not that we're even remotely surprised. An aren't-there-more-important-things-to-worry-about **DART** goes to **Congress** for devoting time and effort to investigating the possibility that famous athletes in Major League Baseball used performance enhancing drugs. While the American public was transfixed with whether the "misremembering" Roger Clemens shot human growth hormones into his ass, Congress also managed to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and allow warrantless wiretapping. Great timing, guys. Really.

Speaking of federal incompetence, we proudly spear **U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings** with an actually-it's-part-of-your-job-description-as-the-leader-in-education **DART**. During an appearance at the Community College National Legislative Summit, Spellings repeatedly told students and administrators that high textbook prices were not an issue for the federal government and should be left to the states and the colleges themselves to deal with. Apparently, Spellings is an expert at deflecting problems she is supposed to be actively solving, rather than actually doing anything productive. But rest assured, she is "all ears" for suggestions that don't involve spending any cash.

One thing that made this week a whole lot better was knowing that we won't have to watch Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert struggle through their nightly broadcasts any longer. A you-saved-the-future-of-television-from-lame-game-shows **LAUREL** goes to the Hollywood screenwriters of the **Writers Guild of America, West** who voted to end the three-month strike. It's high time they get back to work, so we can find a watchable distraction from ours.

the independent florida  
**alligator**

Chad Smith  
EDITOR  
Devin Culclasure  
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257. Columns of about 550 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

**Opinions**

**ALLIGATOR**  
[www.alligator.org/opinion](http://www.alligator.org/opinion)

**Editorial Notebook****Please pardon the Alligator's e-dust**

For the past few years, newspapers have tinkered with their Web sites, trying new ways to get readers information quickly and to get them involved.

The Alligator is no different.

As you might have noticed, we redesigned our Web site in the fall. It has a slew of new features and just plain looks better.

But it has come with its share of speed bumps.

Recently, though, we've run into more of a roadblock. Over the weekend, we're going to have to erase all of the comments posted on the site in order to improve our comments system.

Currently, when a reader comments on a story and we need to go into the file to append a correction or change a misspelled word in a headline, the comments are erased on that story.

The Web is a tricky thing. When we put a story online, it's pretty much going to be there forever — or until Al Gore pulls the plug on the Internet. And if a Googler comes across an Alligator article in a few years, we want to make sure the story they read is as accurate as possible. To do that, we're going to have to sacrifice the current comments. Trust me, our online staff members loathe the thought of it, but it's a necessary evil.

When they have gone into stories and made changes, thus deleting comments, we've been accused of censoring reader participation. That's a tough pill for a newspaper to swallow. Then we had to explain to the readers what happened.

As you might have noticed at the bottom of this page, we've also had a few glitches with our polling system. Every day we post news and sports polls to gauge readers' views on current events, but for some reason, they



**Chad Smith**  
editor@alligator.org

aren't showing up.

So I apologize if you've gone to our Web site to reply, only to find out that we aren't really asking that question that day.

Our managing editor for online, who consumes her fair share of energy drinks to make it through these dilemmas, can usually be found yelling somewhere in our newsroom about these problems.

But when she isn't doing that, she and her staff are working on several new features, including a feed you can subscribe to that will deliver all of the Alligator's content right to you, including a University Police crime log. So if someone gets arrested for public urination near the stadium, you'll know about it as soon as UPD logs it. This semester, we launched a feature called Gainesville Explorer, a weekly look at the interesting places in and around town through multimedia.

There are also several blogs on our site, including one that I contribute to called Letters from the Editors. (See what we did there?) It's designed to give you a look at the inner workings of the Alligator. We also have blogs about science, multicultural affairs and several about sports.

For all the hiccups we've endured with the new site, it has come a long way. So please bear with us while we continue to clog up Sen. Ted Stevens' Internet tubes with more and more content.

We promise we'll get it all working soon.

Chad Smith is a journalism senior and the editor of the Alligator. His views represent the Alligator's.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.

**Reader response**

**Today's question:** Should there be superdelegates?

The results of Thursday's poll are unavailable due to a technical error.

Vote or post a message at [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)

## Letters to the Editor

### Orange and Blue should do research

Mark McShera's comments about Student Government's alleged "wasteful spending" reveal either his desire to misrepresent the facts or the Orange and Blue Party's inability to understand current trends in SG finance.

First off, the claim that SG spends \$50,000 on BlackBerrys is utterly fallacious. The smartphones are considered an employee benefit and are deducted from their paychecks. The \$45,000 pays for the entire network of phones used by SG and other student organizations. Many are on the third floor of the Reitz Union, but there are also some across campus in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council office, Benton Engineering College Council — you name it.

McShera also argues that SG's budget should be cut in order to give student organizations more money. Perhaps the Orange and Blue Party should do more research. If they had, they would've discovered that student organizations do not spend the money already in their possession. During the 2006 and 2007 fiscal year, organizations left over 20 percent of their budgets untouched. Between student groups and academic organizations, this amounted to \$232,000.

Considering the heavy responsibility we place on SG officials to manage a \$13 million budget, I think it's reasonable to expect our candidates to either have accurate knowledge

of the budget figures or be honest about it — or both.

Lacey Logsdon  
former Student Senate budget and approactions vice chairwoman

### SG has stopped caring about students

In response to Derek Clenzi's letter, I'm glad to see Tau Epsilon Phi is encouraging its brothers to write to the editor.

I encourage Mr. Clenzi and all students that are interested in the Orange and Blue Party to check out our Web site or Facebook group. It is true that we support the students' wishes to see online voting on the ballot, but there is so much more that we stand for as well. While serving as Chomp the Vote executive director, I saw the problems within Student Government first hand. As a whole, SG has become bloated and unresponsive to the students. It no longer strives to achieve strong results.

Our elected officials in Student Senate don't show up, our appointed Cabinet doesn't deliver, and our Supreme Court has stopped caring about the students. It is time for change, for action and for results.

Our Web site provides the ideals we stand for. Our platform shows we mean business, and you can add to it as well. I cannot remem-

ber the last time I have saw a party as responsive to students as the Orange and Blue Party, and I hope you decide to at least check out what else we stand for besides online voting — maybe you will like what you see.

Frank Bracco  
Orange and Blue Party candidate  
for Student Body vice president

individual's vote. The measure intended to increase voter turnout would actually undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

If this argument sounds familiar, it is because Chief Justice Brian Aungst explained it at Tuesday's Senate meeting. Had the protesters not stormed out before hearing the explanation, they could have spared the student body some angry and misleading letters.

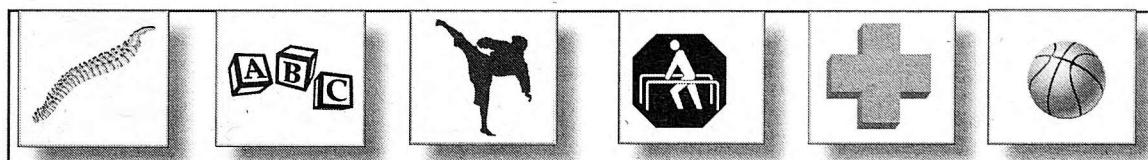
Matt Michel  
7BA

### UF Supreme Court not playing fairly

Dear UF Supreme Court, you clearly do not deserve to finish your degrees being that you have no comprehension of how the law works. A constitutional amendment allowing online voting was denied Tuesday on the grounds that — wait for it — it was unconstitutional. Let us all shout a resounding, "Duh." By definition, any constitutional amendment is unconstitutional. If it wasn't we wouldn't need to amend anything now would we? Your decision to deny students the right to vote on their own constitution is unfathomable.

To Patricia Telles-Irvan and Dean Eugene Zdziarski — you have the right to step in when the students playing government stop playing fairly. It's your move. Please don't let us down.

Ryan Nelson  
UF alumnus



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# SFCC to hold open house

**By APRIL DUDASH**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Holding a person's chest open, passing instruments to the surgeon and assisting in robotic procedures are all a part of a surgical technologist's forte.

Diane May, a former surgical technologist, said the career is widely unknown.

"A lot of the public doesn't realize we even exist," May said. "If I was to poll the public and ask them who passes the instruments to the surgeon, most of the public would say, 'the nurse.'"

May is the program coordinator and founder of the SFCC Surgical Technology Program, which will hold an open house Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to educate the community on its offered courses.

May said being a surgical technologist is a satisfying career.

"If I wasn't teaching, I'd be right back scrubbing," May said. "It's a privilege to serve the patient and the doctor."

Since she started the program at SFCC in 1995, there have been more than 200 graduates.

These applicants include people straight out of high school, college graduates and those pursuing career changes, said Scott Fortner, a health sci-

ences adviser and recruiter for the program.

Students also use surgical technology as a stepping-stone to higher levels of health care, such as nursing and medical school, Fortner said.

The age of surgical technology students in the program ranges from 19 to early 50s.

Fortner said it takes a special personality to be able to work in an operating room.

**"A lot of the public doesn't realize we even exist."**

**Diane May**  
SFCC Surgical Technology  
Program coordinator

"This person can't be squeamish," he said. "It's really for that person who's well organized, emotionally stable and really interested in hands-on health care."

Surgical technology student Shavonne Carter, 31, learned about the program through the open house last year and began classes in May. Carter, who is married and has four children, knew it would take longer to finish medical school.

"I was looking for something I could do pretty much right now," she said.

Two days of the week are spent in the classroom, where students are currently learning

about viruses and fungi.

Students participate in surgical procedures at Gainesville hospitals the remaining three days, she said.

"If you can handle the blood and guts, it's not bad," Carter said. "It's not as bad as it sounds."

The class has taught Carter organization, and she has learned to form bonds with classmates.

"It's so much better if you have friends in class to study with, to get together with," she said. "You can't do it by yourself."

Program Director Paul Stephan said as Shands hospitals expand, there will be a greater local need for surgical technologists.

The open house, which is run by students, will offer a realistic operating room environment as well as program presentations.

The deadline to apply for the one-year program is March 31, and about 25 applicants will be accepted.

## What: Surgical Technology Program Open House

Date: Feb. 18th and 19th

Time: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: SFCC Campus, Room WA-217 of the new Health Sciences Annex



Nicole Safker / Alligator Staff

Nichole Blake, left, works on a simulated patient with Shavonne Carter in the SFCC Surgery Technology Program at Wednesday afternoon.

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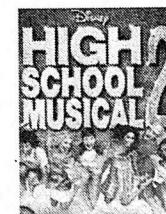
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## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

# UF student travels to Australia for solar energy forum

By ANKITA RAO

Alligator Contributing Writer

While other students bought roses and chocolate on Valentine's Day, Daniel Robinson embarked on a last-minute sponsored trip to Australia for a solar energy conference.

Robinson, president of UF's American Solar Energy Society, left Thursday for the Solar Cities Congress in Adelaide, Australia.

The conference, which runs from Sunday to Thursday, will discuss how cities can implement renewable energy, according to its Web site.

He first heard about the conference a month ago, when he got an e-mail from Harald Kegelmann, founder of SolarCity Gainesville

Inc., a local nonprofit organization.

Robinson, a mechanical engineering junior, said he instantly wanted to go, but hesitated due to funding and time.

Two weeks later, Kegelmann told him a local donor would provide \$3,000 to cover the flight and registration fee, Robinson said.

"You don't expect to wake up in the morning and see someone giving you money to fly to Australia," he said.

He had 24 hours to buy a plane ticket and register for the conference that was less than 10 days away.

The conference, which will feature 90 speakers from 30 countries, will be comprised of professionals in the sustainability field.

Robinson said he is most excited to hear

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speak and to network.

Kegelmann said Robinson's open-minded character will help him absorb information and form contacts.

**"You don't expect to wake up in the morning and see someone giving you money to fly to Australia."**

**Daniel Robinson**

UF American Solar Energy Society president

"Dan has both the technical background as an engineering student but brings also his interest in solar energy to the table," Kegelmann said.

His role as president of the UF American

Solar Energy Society is one of Robinson's central activities. The society focuses on sustainability and environmentally sound living.

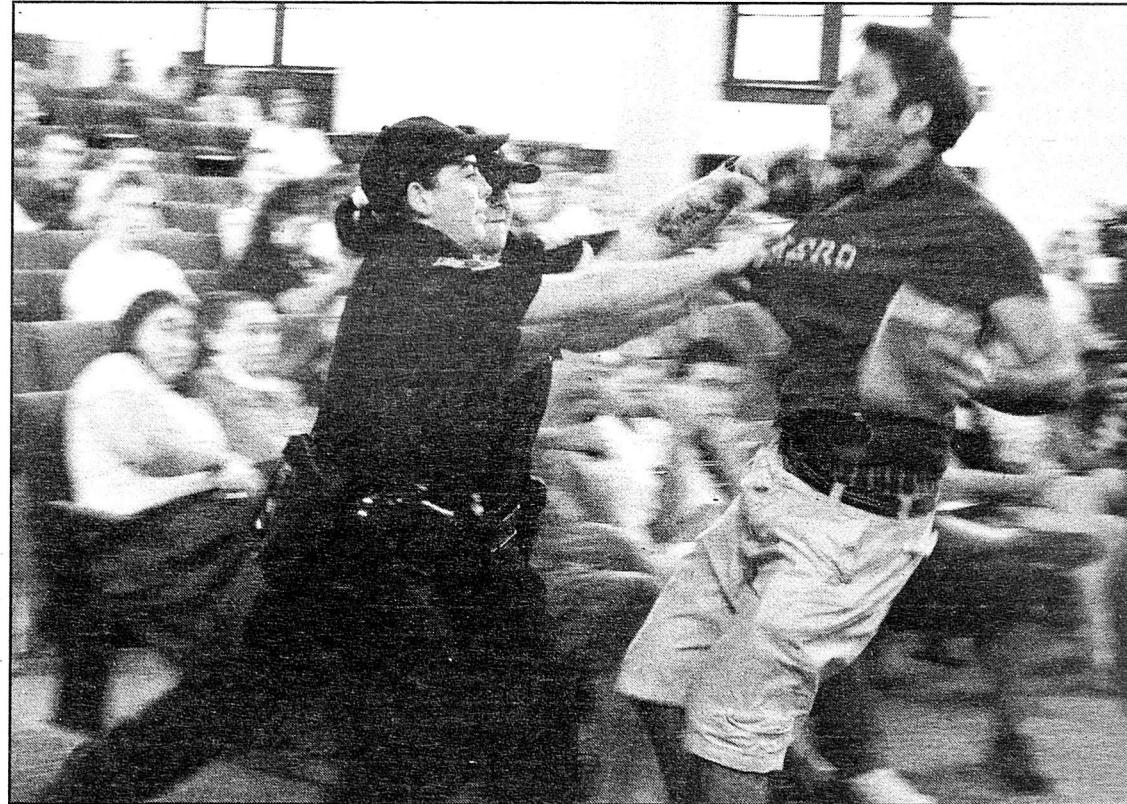
The members promote the construction of solar panels on buildings and engage in smaller projects such as ovens and tricycles that run on solar power, Robinson said.

He said the conference in Australia will help him become more of an expert on solar energy and increase involvement with the society.

Robinson said he is overwhelmed but excited to see Australia and learn more about one of his passions.

"I hope to have an epiphany that this is important, this is what I should be doing," he said.

## Crist issues report



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator

**Award-Winning Action**

Alligator photo editor Andrew Stanfill won the Associated Press Florida Photo of the Year with this and another photo of UF student Andrew Meyer struggling with University Police at a John Kerry speech in September.

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## FSU SGA officials say benefits of online voting outweigh risks

**FSU**, from page 1

computer through Blackboard Learning System, and it is up to FSU students to report anyone trying to violate voter secrecy.

He said using this system is "perfectly safe and secure" because it is the same system FSU students visit every day to check grades, register

for classes and pay fees.

Joe O'Shea, FSU Student Body president, said he hopes it will increase voter turnout — usually about 2 percent — to about 12 percent. SGA will keep online voting as an option along with their usual six voting booths on campus.

He said the benefits outweigh the possible risks.

"There's always the possibility

that someone could be coerced into voting whether they're going into the voting booth or online," he said. "I mean, there's always really a risk, but people are free to vote as they wish."

UF Student Senate President Kevin Reilly, who is also the Gator Party's candidate for Student Body president, said he respected the UF court's decision on the amendment

and declined to comment on online voting.

The UF court's written decision states the online voting amendment violates the U.S. Constitution's guaranteed right to voter secrecy by preventing SGA's ability to supervise.

To have certified the amendment, the court would have needed to overturn a previous court's ruling of the amendment's unconstitution-

ality in 2006, which they didn't find "erroneous" enough to do so, the court's written decision stated.

John Campbell, an associate justice of the court, was the only one to dissent from the court's opinion.

Campbell said the amendment should have been certified by the court because it passed the requirements in the Student Body constitution and statutes.

## University presidents met informally to discuss ways to boost funds

**MEETING**, from page 1

but the university system graduates 65,000 every year and supposedly we're going to go up," Machen said. "It didn't scare the speaker, let's put it that way."

The money could come from a combination of state funding and tuition increases, said board spokesman Bill Edmonds. None of the details were hammered out yet, Edmonds said.

"Clearly, the board thinks that tuition is going to have to go up if we're going to ad-

dress some of these fundamental problems," he said. "But we don't really want to make students pay for everything."

Rubio has said he supports a small tuition increase but wants universities to make financial aid a priority.

However, universities and the board have clamored for hiked tuition to hire more faculty members and advisers.

The board voted at a January meeting to raise tuition at all the universities by 8 percent in fall. That increase will bring in about \$32 million statewide.

He said it's not nearly enough.

The 8 percent increase won't affect UF, Florida State University and the University of

South Florida, however, because those universities are already expecting 15 percent hikes due to the Tuition Differential Program, which also begins in fall.

The program allows the three universities to raise tuition 40 percent over four years, provided that each year's increase does not exceed 15 percent.

Though the board approved the 8 percent hike, it is not yet known whether it's allowed to do so.

The board and the Legislature are currently locked in a lawsuit sparked by former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham's assertion that the board should

ultimately have tuition-setting authority.

Gov. Charlie Crist suggested giving nearly \$5.5 billion of state funds to universities in his proposed budget to the Legislature in January, but he did not call for tuition increases. The Legislature has the final say on the budget, and its regular session begins in March.

Machen said he was confident the Thursday meeting was a success.

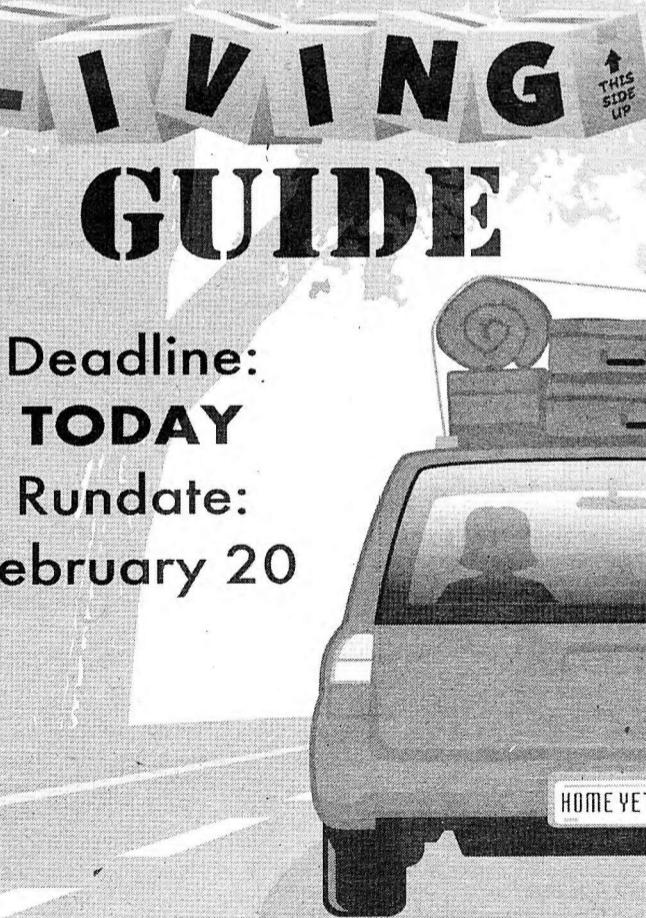
"We feel like we've been sort of left out in the cold to deal with our problem by ourselves," Machen said.

"We all saw this as a gesture by the speaker to say that he wants to help and he wants to put higher-ed in a good place."

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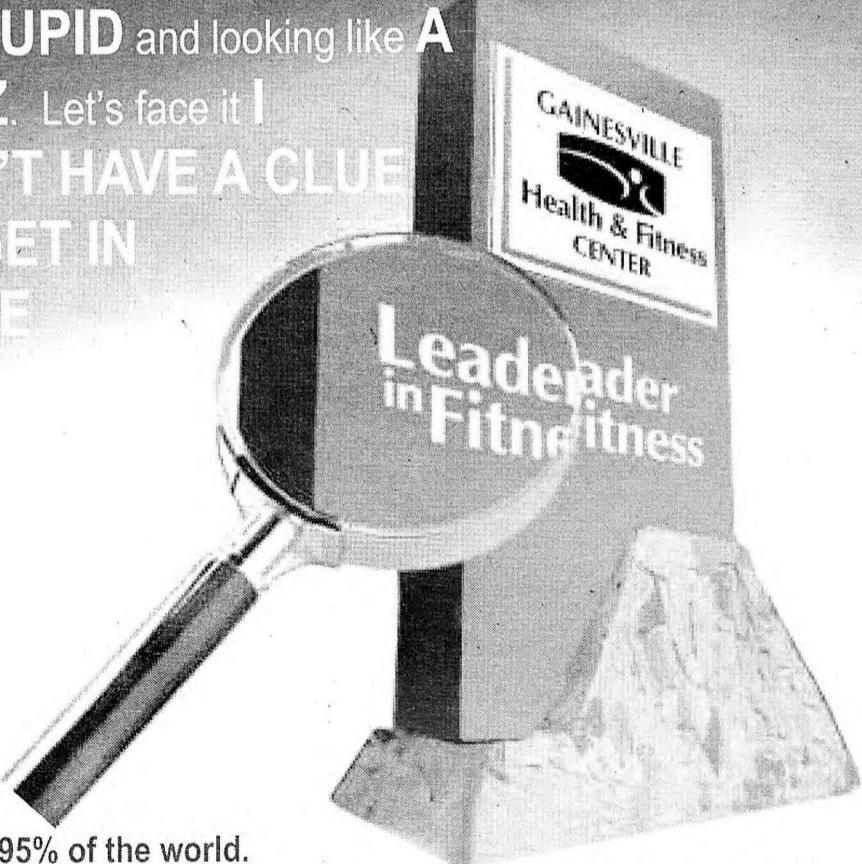
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# FEMA to relocate Katrina victims from trailers

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### Computer virus spreads through Valentine's e-mails

**VIRUS HAS BEEN AROUND FOR YEAR AND A HALF.**

**By STEPHANIE ROSENBERG**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

E-mails sent across the country Thursday with subjects such as "The Love Train," "You Stay in My Heart" and "Valentine's Day" could have been harmful traps for the computers of those who opened them.

According to the FBI, spam e-mails disguising themselves as holiday e-cards were sent out to expose computers to the Storm Worm virus.

"It's been around for at least a year and a half, but it just keeps going through new iterations to dupe users into infecting themselves," said John Sawyer, UF Information Technology senior security engineer.

The Storm Worm virus infects Windows users with a Storm Worm botnet, which creates a network of tainted machines controlled by a single user, Sawyer said.

Although he could not comment on any incidents when the Storm Worm virus or malware affected students, Sawyer said it probably doesn't happen often because UF's WebMail and most major e-mail ser-

vices have good spam protection.

The FBI warned people to be cautious of e-mails from unknown senders and not to click on any links from unusual e-mails.

The Valentine's e-mail instructed a recipient to click on a provided link to download an electronic greeting card.

When opened, malicious software, or malware, was downloaded onto the computer.

Sawyer explained that e-mails were generally short and included a Web site link.

When users clicked the link,

they were directed to a page with a Valentine's Day image and were asked to save the file as "valentine.exe," he said.

In some cases, simply clicking on the link could help the virus infiltrate a user's computer, Sawyer said. However, most versions still required an individual to download the virus. Despite well-known virus warnings, he said many people still download suspicious links or open e-mails from unknown senders.

"It's an act of social engineering that makes the user think they need to download it or go to the Web page," Sawyer said.

The effects of malware can range

from sending e-mails to everyone in the user's address book to tracking the user's keystrokes, which can lead to identity theft, he said.

Most times, virus e-mails are recognized by e-mail programs as spam and end up in junk-mail folders, he said.

Sawyer recommended keeping virus-protection software up to date. If students suspect a computer has been infected, Sawyer said the best thing to do is contact the UF Computing Help Desk for assistance and to get the machine cleaned.

"Doing it from scratch is really about the only surefire to clean your computer," Sawyer said.

### SDS gives heart to Machen

Student protesters delivered UF President Bernie Machen a big, red Valentine's Day card Thursday morning, but the message inside was less than loving.

Members of three groups — Students for a Democratic Society, United Students Against Sweatshops and Feminist Activists Creating Equality — wrote Machen about concerns that UF apparel could be made with sweatshop labor, according to a copy of the letter.

The groups wrote that UF should join the Workers Right Consortium, a group that oversees its members' manufactured clothing to ensure it's not produced in sweatshops.

Machen was in Tallahassee when protesters delivered the roughly 2-foot-wide cardboard heart, and his secretary accepted it for him, said Kevin Hachey, one of the

protesters.

Dedee DeLongpre, director of UF's Office of Sustainability, said UF is already a member of the Fair Labor Association, a similar sweatshop-monitoring group. DeLongpre said UF seems comfortable with its current affiliation but that the students had valid concerns.

**UF Academics** Hachey said the student groups didn't support the Fair Labor Association because some of its board members belong to the textile industry, and "we can't expect them to police themselves."

In their letter, protesters gave Machen a March 19 deadline to affiliate with their approved group. And if he doesn't respond?

"That's for us to know and Bernie to find out," Hachey said.

— KIM WILMATH

### Romney endorses McCain



# CLAS to interview 11 dean hopefuls

■ TWO CLAS LEADERS  
VYING FOR TOP SPOT.

By DEBORAH SWERDLOW

Alligator Writer  
dswerdlow@alligator.org

In preparation for semi-finalist interviews, the search committee for the next dean of UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences drafted questions on Thursday about budget cuts, shared governance and the college's diversity to ask the candidates.

Pramod Khargonekar, chairman of the committee and College of Engineering dean, said the group would interview 11 candidates at the Hilton UF Conference Center today, Saturday and Sunday.

Twelve semi-finalists were invited to interview, but one declined, Khargonekar said.

To come up with interview questions, he said the 10-member committee considered suggestions from CLAS faculty and inquiries from other UF searches.

After some debate, the committee decided to ask every candidate the same questions rather than asking the two candidates from CLAS — Interim Dean Joe Glover and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Allan Burns — different questions.

"Our main concern was to

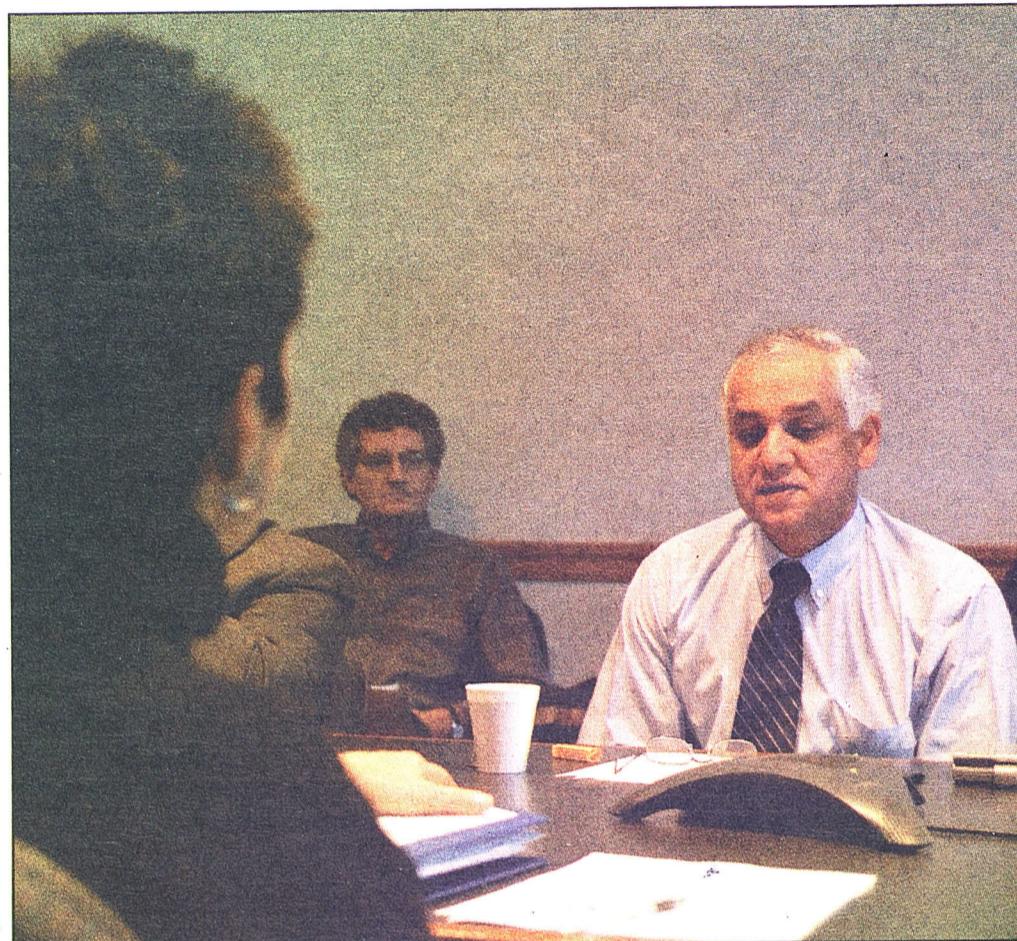
treat all candidates equally," Khargonekar said.

The committee will meet

Wednesday to choose three to five finalists.

The list of finalists will be

presented to UF Provost Janie Fouke, and Fouke will take over the search from there.



Nicole Safker / Alligator Staff

Pramod Khargonekar, chairman of the search committee for the next dean of UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, talks in Library East during a committee meeting Thursday.

Satellite to  
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Shooter opened fire from behind a wall

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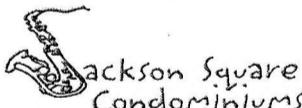
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**2 For Rent unfurnished**

2/1 Completely upgraded throughout All new  
kitchen stainless appliances All new bath  
Cable/high speed internet avail Separate  
laundry room 1 mile from UF, Shands,  
shopping \$765/mo. Sorry, no pets e-mail:  
[jlgalckin@yahoo.com](mailto:jlgalckin@yahoo.com) or 727-423-9463.  
Bckgrd/credit check required. 2-21-08-10-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

APTS for rent close to UF!  
[www.merrillmanagement.net](http://www.merrillmanagement.net)  
Merrill Management Inc.  
352-372-1494 x10 2-15-6-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

2BR 1BA Home off NW 6th St.  
Terazzo Floors, Window A/C, Nat  
Gas ht. 750 sq. ft. \$600/Mo  
404 NW 28th Avenue.  
Call Merrill Management Inc  
352-372-1494 x 10 2-15-6-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

2BR 1BA Apt 1BLK to UF!  
Wood Floors, Window A/C  
Nat Gas ht. \$625/Mo  
1210 SW 3rd Avenue.  
Call Merrill Management Inc.  
352-372-1494 2-15-6-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

2BR 1BA Garage Apt, 1 BLK  
to UF! Wood Floors, Central H & Air  
Includes all Utilities \$850/Mo  
1014 Sw 2nd Place #B  
Call Merrill Management Inc.  
352-372-1494 2-15-6-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

1BR & 2BR 1BA Apt near Sams & Walmart  
Terazzo Floors, Window A/C, Nat gas ht  
\$425 to \$550/Mo /Mo 2901 NW 14th St.  
Call Merrill Management Inc  
352-372-1494 x 10 2-15-6-2

**1BR & 2BR/1BA APTS**

with W/D, cent H/AC, DW, ceramic tile,  
private patio, pets arranged. Off SW 34th  
St near bus rte. From \$689/mo 377-1633  
[www.lenoxcorner.com](http://www.lenoxcorner.com) 2-29-16-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

COTTAGE GROVE  
2, 3, 4 br. Upscale condos for rent  
Sign a lease by Feb 29th  
& receive a \$500 signing bonus.  
Visit our website:  
[www.cottagegroveatgainesville.com](http://www.cottagegroveatgainesville.com)  
352-373-7959  
4-23-47-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

Raise Your Standards  
Why settle for less than you deserve?  
FREE Utilities, FREE Cable, FREE Internet  
Luxury 2s & 4s starting at just \$499  
RM Match & 1 Mi from UF - 271-3131  
4-23-47-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

Creek Forest, NW 1br minutes from shop-  
ping, downtown \$ UF, central air/heat, back  
deck, w/d hookup, includes some utilities,  
\$500/mo. [www.edbaurmanagement.com](http://www.edbaurmanagement.com)  
1731 NW 6th St. - 375-7104 x 113  
4-23-47-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

Whispering Pines, brand new units  
convenient to hospitals and vet school,  
2br/2ba, fully equipped kitchen, icemaker,  
washer and dryer, monitored alarm system,  
\$1000/mo, now renting for summer/fall  
semesters, ask about our specials!  
[www.edbaurmanagement.com](http://www.edbaurmanagement.com)  
1731 NW 6th St. 375-7104 x113  
4-23-47-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

3/4 Bedroom house across Butler Plaza, on  
Bus route \$1,200mo - open Sat 2/16 from  
1-3pm. 3917 SW 37th Street or call 352-336-  
3900x15. 2-15-08-4-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

Amazing 2-2 condo in The Links @ Haile  
Plantation. Freshly painted, New Fixtures,  
PC Room, Storage Space & Screened porch  
w/stunning view, W/D incl. 870-8210 2-25-  
08-10-2

**Luxury Living - Just off Sorority Row!**

New this year - COTTAGES AT NORMAN.  
Act Now - Only 2 cottages left. 2BR/2BA  
or 3BR/2BA. Less than 100 feet from  
Norman Hall. Ask about rent special.  
[www.bellaproperties.net](http://www.bellaproperties.net) or 352-335-5424.  
3-7-08-12-2

**Escape complex living at Palm Villas Apt.**

Luxury Apartments targeting grad students  
and young professionals. Very quiet, yet con-  
venient to shopping. On RTS Bus Route #12.  
See web page for photos and floor plans.  
[www.bellaproperties.net](http://www.bellaproperties.net) or 352-335-5424  
3-7-08-18-2

**Spacious\*Affordable\*Close to Campus**

Available NOW and Fall 2008  
4/2 from \$420/mo & 2/1 from \$509/mo  
Fully furnished, Cable w/HBO included  
Fitness, Pool, Volleyball, B-ball and more!  
Call now, spaces limited 352-377-6700  
4-23-46-2

**2BR HOUSE, cent A/C, wood floors,  
fenced backyard, close to UF. \$750/mo**

●1BR Huge close to UF/SFCC, flex lease,  
water incl. \$400/mo.  
Both off NW 6th St. Call 352-318-8822  
2-19-5-2

4BR2BA HOUSE - MUST SEE  
avail 8/1. Remodeled, W/D, lawn care, 1.8  
miles UF, NO PETS, 3532 NW 7th Ave.  
Fence. \$1400/mo 373-1558 or 246-8645  
2-19-5-2

★★★★5 BLOCKS FROM UF★★★★  
Large unfurnished room available now.  
Carpet, A/C, heat, ceiling fan, W/D. No pets.  
Perfect for student. \$375/mo incl utils. 283-  
5411 or 371-6749 2-19-10-2

High Springs 3BR/2BA Wooded Lot Appl  
included, newer home no smoking, pets ok  
avail March 1st \$1050/mo. 352-222-9003  
2-19-08-4-2

4/2 house avail Fall'08. Spacious house with  
fenced in back yard. Pets welcome. Quite  
neighborhood. Mins to campus. Bus route..  
\$1100 a month. Avail August 6! 5402 NW  
25th PL. Call April 352-514-1441 2-22-08-  
7-2

Houses, Duplexes, Condo, Townhouses.  
Walk/Bike/Bus to campus. Neat, clean, good  
quality. Visit [www.gatorpads.com](http://www.gatorpads.com) for available  
units or call 284-0316 4-23-08-43-2

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
By Linda Thorne**Copyrighted Material****Syndicated Content****Available from Commercial News Providers****DIFFICULTY THIS WEEKEND**

\* Monday \* Tuesday

\* Wednesday \* Thursday

\* Friday \* Saturday

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

**Save gas & kick the roommate habit!**  
1BR/1BA now renting for Fall 2008!  
2 blks to UF - Gatornest Apts.  
300 NW 18th St - \$585/mo.  
4 blks to UF - Gatorside Apts.  
1600 NW 4th Ave - \$430/mo.  
Bike to UF - Centerpoint Apts.  
1220 NW 12th St - \$475/mo.  
Email Rentals@EFNProperties.com or  
Call 352-371-3636  
\*\*No Application Fee\*\*

2-15-08-1-2

**AVAILABLE NOW**  
2BR/1BA Downtown \$450/mo  
3BR/2BA Townhouse w/d, 8 mo old, \$1200  
Gore-Rabell Real Estate  
378-1387  
www.gore-rabell.com  
4-23-08-47-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

5bd 2ba Home only \$425/mo! 3bd 2ba Home  
only \$199/mo! More 1-4bd Homes Available!  
For Listings (800)482-9419. 2-15-1-2

spacious 2BR 2 1/2 BA Sparrow  
Condos, tower rd, near mall \$750/mo+ \$750  
deposit available asap. 352.219.5603 2-  
22-08-10-2

**REMODELED 2/1**

\$580 plus sec. All painted, new kit counters,  
new frig. 10 min. from both malls and town.  
SW off 20th Ave. Central H/AC, energy saving  
windows, semi enclosed back yard, picnic  
table. Call Mr. Kristoff 332-5030 2-22-5-2

**3 Subleases**

Apartments Sublet & Roommates  
Browse FREE!  
[www.SUBLET.com](http://www.SUBLET.com)  
1-877-FOR-RENT/201-845-7300  
8-13-149-3

Quiet house on 17th St behind Swamp! Huge  
pvt BR. 3 min walk to UF! Hi-spnd internet,  
cable tv, W/D, wood floor, fireplace! Females  
only. Negotiable rent! Call Prissy @ 386-688-  
3071 or [pnelson@alligator.org](mailto:pnelson@alligator.org) 2-25-08-20-3

Walk to UF. 1BR/1BA, March to July 31st,  
\$550/mo OBO. Central Ac/Heat, great place  
to call home. Contact John for details. 941-  
374-0824 2-18-3-3

**3 Subleases**

FREE TO MOVE IN! FEB. RENT PAID! 1/1  
in a furnished 3/3 @ the Polos. Male room-  
mate needed. Homemade Kegerator always  
on tap, washer/dryer inside, 3 pools/hot tubs,  
gym, bball court. \$392/mo. (239) 826-2914  
2-25-15-3

March 1 to August 7 Sublease. 1/1 in 4/4  
@ Lexington Crossing. All utilities included  
(Fully Furnished). \$400/Month or 484/Month  
+ \$500 Cash upon signing. Call Mike at 352-  
219-2611 2-19-08-5-3

SICK of your roommate? \$610/mo.  
SUBLEASE or RENT 1BR/1Bath apt, very  
clean & quiet. 2-min walk to Shands, VA, Vet  
School. Ready 4/1. Call Shirley at Country  
Gardens 352-373-4500 2-15-8-3

**3 Subleases**

**DON'T WAIT  
TO PLACE,  
YOUR  
SUBLEASE AD**  
Last spring semester  
paper published on  
April 23rd.

**CALL TODAY!!!**

or

**PLACE YOUR AD AT  
[WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG!](http://WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG)**

Feb Rent Free in 1/1 in Sun Bay Apts. Rent  
is \$560/month thereafter. Move in now.  
Walk/Bike to UF. Area is very quiet and is  
pet-friendly. I'm moving out of state and need  
to sublease ASAP! Call 678-697-1318. 2-  
18-08-7-3

Individually subleasing 1 BR out of 4-B  
2-B apartment at University Glades. Girl  
only. Dates: 2/08-07/08. I will pay part of 1st  
months rent as bonus. Wanting to do this  
asap call Jennifer (352)317-1566 2-15-  
08-5-3

Sublease: 2 open rooms in 3/3 @ Lex  
Crossings. Take 1 or both. Feb rent paid +  
half of March. Fully furnished, next to pool,  
on bus route. \$515/mo utils incl. Call John at  
786-367-2345 2-15-08-5-3

Emergency! - we need to sublet a 1bedrm/  
1bth apartmt in Oxford Manor. Move in ready!  
Fitness center, cable, tanning and security  
included. Fill out an application at the office  
to get approved ref. Apt. VV235 Call ASAP  
and make a deal! 850-386-6230 or 850-459-  
8481 [sdpenn@gmail.com](mailto:sdpenn@gmail.com) 2-19-08-5-3

SUBLEASE Madison Pointe 1BR 1 BA Apt.  
with W/D, dishwasher, & screen porch. Pool,  
exercise room, sauna, tennis, BBall court,  
security guard on-site. \$795/mo. + utilities.  
Available April or May 1st-July 31st. Call Jen  
651-263-5195 4-1-30-3

**4 Roommates**

Roommate Matching HERE  
Oxford Manor 377-2777  
The Landings 336-3838  
The Laurels 335-4455  
Cobblestone 377-2801  
Hidden Lake 374-3866  
4-23-72-4

Female grad student wanted to share spacious  
3/2 house. Convenient to UF, Shands & vet school,  
very quiet neighborhood, large privacy fenced yard.  
Clean/friendly pets may be considered - sorry no cats. 352-359-3165  
2-29-08-43-4

Quiet, county employee seeks roommate for  
2BR/1BA apt. All deposits are paid. \$450/mo  
incl rent, elec, local phone, cable & high  
speed internet access. Seeking clean, quiet  
person. Call 352-374-7158 2-22-08-32-4

• \$280-\$310/mo Nice rooms. Walk to UF.  
Short term ok. Low move-in. Small pet possible.  
• ALSO 5BR house, bike to UF. \$1000. 352-  
371-9409 3-28-08-40-4

FEMALE roommate SW estate lrg pvt rm pvt  
bath&pvt 2carG wifi hi spd cable W/D util big  
scrn hotub fireplace 10min to UF. \$250/mo  
213.2933 lv mssg 2-15-08-20-4

Avail Immediately. Perfect for Grad/Med/Intl  
students. Large room w/pvt bath in  
larg, quiet home 5 min to UF. \$550/mo +  
utils. W/D, CH/AC. Newly decorated. Call  
352-284-0979 Short term available. 2-19-  
08-20-4

Female roommate needed for nice, big room.  
Private bath, W/D, Wi-Fi, cable, parking included.  
\$430+half utils. No pets, no smoking.  
Call Delia (352) 359-2243. 2-21-08-21-4

# the worship Guide

**Baptist**

**MONTEOCHA BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
Reformed & Evangelical  
Sunday Worship 11 am & 6pm  
9420 North County Road 225  
monteochabaptist.org; 377-4446  
Campus Bible Study Wed. 6:30pm  
@ the BCM, 1604 W. Univ. Ave.

**Parker Road Baptist Church**  
3200 SW 122nd Street.  
Dr. James Jackson, Interim Pastor  
332-4991. 9:45 Sunday School  
Worship @ 11am & 6pm  
Wednesday  
Worship@ 7pm and Youth WOW  
@ 6:30pm

**Catholic**

**St. Augustine Catholic  
Church**  
1738 W. University Avenue  
Tomorrow - \$5 dinner at 6:45pm  
Sunday Mass: 9am, 11:30am, 1:  
30pm (Spanish), 5:30, 7:30pm  
Free student dinner - Tuesdays  
Retreat! Feb. 29 - Mar. 2  
go to [www.CatholicGators.com](http://www.CatholicGators.com)

**Christian Study Centers**

**Christian Study Center**  
Classes, Reading Groups, Culture  
Seminars and more. For details  
[Christianstudycenter.org](http://Christianstudycenter.org)  
Pascal's Coffeehouse  
Open M-Th 8am-11pm F 8am-6pm  
112 NW 16th Street

**Episcopal**

**Episcopal Chapel House**  
<http://www.ufchapelhouse.com/>  
Communion Services on Sun. at  
6:30pm, Wed. at 5:15pm, and  
Fri. at 12pm. Oasis in the city  
garden (with free wireless) open  
9am to 9pm, fellowship, and more!  
352.372.8506

**Episcopal**

**Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church**  
Sunday Worship 8am, 10:30am,  
6pm. Child care available 8 &  
10:30am. Wednesday Healing &  
Communion 12:15pm.

**Evangelical**

**Creekside  
Community Church**  
Sunday Service 10:30a.m.  
College Bible Study Wed 7pm at  
the Christian Study Center  
2640 NW 39th Avenue for more  
information call (352) 378-1800  
[www.creeksidecc.org](http://www.creeksidecc.org)

**Jewish Student  
Centers**

**Chabad Lubavitch  
Jewish Student Center**  
Your home away from home.  
Friday Night Live!  
Services & Shabbat Dinner.  
7:30pm Spring semester  
352-336-5877; 2021 NW 5th Ave.  
(5 blocks north of the stadium)  
[www.JewishGator.com](http://www.JewishGator.com)

**Lutheran**

**University Lutheran Church  
& Campus Ministry**  
1826 W University Ave.  
Student Bible Study - Wed 5:30  
Worship 10:25am Sundays

**Methodist**

**First United Methodist  
Church**  
Traditional Sunday Worship  
8:25am and 10:55am. All Ages  
Sunday School Groups- 9:45am.  
Wednesday Dinner (\$2 Students)  
and Classes- 5:30 - 7:30pm.  
419 NE 1st St. [www.fumegnv.org](http://www.fumegnv.org)  
(352)372-8523

**Non-Denominational****PASSAGE Family Church**

PASSAGE Family Church  
2020 NE 15th Street  
[www.passageministries.org](http://www.passageministries.org)  
8AM 9:30 AM 11AM Sundays  
7PM Wednesdays Prayer & Bible  
Study. PASSAGE is a progressive  
non-denominational ministry that  
is Word-based and vision driven.  
Come soar with us.

**Trinity Metropolitan  
Community Church**

Offering truly open and inclusive  
Christian worship.  
Sunday Worship, 10:15am.  
1164 SW Archer Road  
for info, call 352-376-1100 or  
visit [mccgainesville.com](http://mccgainesville.com). "Tearing  
Down Walls Building Up Hope"

**The Rock of Gainesville**

The Rock is a non-denominational, Christian  
Church, with a vibrant presence  
on the campus! Our college  
group, Rock UF, meets on  
Wednesday nights at 8pm.  
For more details and meeting  
locations, visit [www.rockuf.com](http://www.rockuf.com).  
Weekend services are  
Sundays at 8:45am and 11am.  
Call 352-331-ROCK or visit  
[www.therockonline.org](http://www.therockonline.org)

**Women's Covenant Group**

Presents the 3rd Annual Stir Up  
the Gift Conference: A Woman's  
Walk of Wisdom. 2 Featured  
Guest Speakers, March 7-8 @  
7pm. At the Clarion 7417 W.  
Newberry Rd. Gainesville FL.  
Registrations Fee \$40 inc  
ludes Lunch. For more info call  
642-4535 or 376-2119

**Unitarian  
Universalist****Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship**

Imagine a religion where  
inspiration comes from not  
one but many spiritual sources.  
Sunday worship & Sunday school:  
11am 4225 NW 34th St. 3 miles  
north of UF Information:  
377-1669 or [www.uuf.org](http://www.uuf.org)

**alligator**  
the independent florida

For more information on the worship guide  
Contact Ashley Moore at Alligator  
advertising at 376.4482

**4 Roommates****1BR/1BA Available Now**

in 4BR/4BA at Countryside. Females only. \$400/mo includes everything. Short term lease avail. 727-510-9346 or 727-542-8155 2-27-25-4

Quiet Nw neighborhood near UF \$375-\$475 3Br/2Ba house, large 2 car garage, Washer/Dryer, fenced backyard, screened porch. Bus route 8 & 29 352-214-9548 or ern009@hotmail.com 3-3-08-22-4

Room for rent 2/2 Brandywine - Old Archer. Furnished, big screen TV. Short or long term OK. Call Shane 941-932-1189 \$390 + 1/2 util. 2-29-20-4

SW Gainesville 4 bed 2 bath house. 2 rooms for rent \$450/\$425 Includes all util. cable and wireless. Five min. from campus. 352-339-1781 2-25-08-15-4

1 bed/bath in a 3/2 house. Mins. from campus. Only have 1 other roomate! Only \$300/month + 1/2 utilities. Avail now. Prefer Female Grad Student or older. Call April at 352-514-1441. 3331 NW 30th PL 2-19-08-10-4

NS Female to share 2/2 in Treehouse Village condos on bus line. 2 pools and fitness center. Newly remodeled and furnished (except bedroom). WD. Available now. \$400 per month + 1/2 util. Prefer short term rental. 321-266-7069 or 321-213-5059. 2-19-08-10-4

Female grad/professional for furnished 3/1 vintage home. Downtown, bike to UF. \$495 inc. utils, cable, phone, housekeeping. Kayla 328-7474. 2-20-08-10-4

**1BR in 3BR/2BA home**  
in NW. Quiet student or professional. \$500/mo + 1/2 util. Call 443-845-4294 2-20-08-10-4

**ENJOY A ROMANTIC OLD HOUSE**  
Near library downtown. \$285-\$370/rm + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 2-15-5-4

1 bdrm/pvt bath - NE GVL home. Prefer Grad Student/Prof. Many amenities. 15 min drive to UF. No Pets. \$300/mo + 1/2 util. 1st, last \$200 Security Home: 375-5377 Cell: 352-871-2472 Work: 373-6066 ask for Sue 2-21-08-5-4

2rms price of 1-495 Avail. Immd./Price Incl: Rent/Wifi/Cbl/All Util/Nice Lrg 4 bdrm w/Wd Flrs. C. Fans, Wshr,Dryr, DshWshr/Prefre Mature Fem. Student/Share w/1M & 1Fm/ 2 mi UF/NW 8th Ave & NW 43rd St/Nice Nbrhood/ 352-222-8350 2-18-08-5-4

Female wanted to sublease one room of three bedroom apartment. Approx. 10 min walk to campus and close to bus stop. One block from Shands. Located on South 16th St. Very spacious room. Lease up in May. If interested, contact Sarah at 813-767-3748. 2-18-08-5-4

\$275 or \$300/month for female student(s) to join a female UF student in sharing attractive 3BR house near NW 8th Ave, less than 3mi. from UF and on bus rte. #43, tile/hardwood, large yard, \$275/mo for smaller BR and \$300/mo for larger BR, + 1/3 GRU & Cable HSIInternet-TV, call 332-3852. 3-31-08-30-4

**NO LEASE REQUIRED!**  
1/1 in 2/2 \$400/mo inet. Great amenities. Located at Sparrow off Tower Rd. Avail Feb 15. 352-283-0240 2-15-23-4

One room for rent in a 3 bedroom house just one block from UF. All students. Comfortable. Central air. Living room, dining room. Low rent. Share utilities. Call Brian 352-871-0415 2-25-08-5-4

\$410-1 BR for rent in 3BR condo in MARCHWOOD. Live with 2 male students, near archer, bus routes, mall. Call 352-514-4124. 2-21-5-4

1 furnished room available now in 3br/3ba townhouse. 2.5mi from UF on bus route. Includes Washer/dryer, pool, wifi, new carpet, no pets, no smoking. \$400/mo total. 352-745-1952 2-18-2-4

**5 Real Estate**

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD ONLINE AT [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org). or please call 373-Find

**SEE ALL CONDOS**

[WWW.UFCONDOMINIUMS.COM](http://WWW.UFCONDOMINIUMS.COM)  
Matt Price Campus Realty, 352-281-3551  
4-23-72-5-5

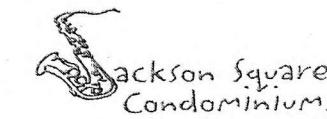
**NEW CONDOS -WALK to UF**  
3 Blks to UF. For Info on ALL 1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms for Sale, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty at 352-219-2879. 4-23-72-5

**GATOR PLACE CONDOS**

2/1, w/d, 800 sq ft, 1 1/2 miles to Shands. 3600 SW 23rd St. \$84,900 or rent for \$650/mo 352-372-0507 4-23-72-5



New 2, 3, & 4BR Upscale Condos with unique Architectural detailing. Starting at \$215,000 \* Opening August 2008. 352-373-7959 \* [www.cottagegroveatgainesville.com](http://www.cottagegroveatgainesville.com) 4-23-08-72-5



Walk to UF and Stadium from Luxurious Jackson Square Condominiums Built to last a lifetime. Prices starting at \$220s. Call 352-870-9453 4-23-58-5

2/1 condo, walking/biking distance to UF, VA, Vet School, Summit House on SW 16th Ave. \$135,999. Call 352-843-0862 See photos and description at [forsalebyowner.com](http://forsalebyowner.com), listing #20885030 3-5-30-5

**BUY THIS CUTE CONDO!!**  
2BR/2BA in Woodside Villas Pool, W/D, NEW Appl., yard space 2 flrs, nice area, \$107,900 Call Howard at 352-224-1219 2-15-08-17-5



**80% SOLD OUT!**  
BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION CLOSE TO UF AND SHANDS Starting in the mid \$170's 2BR/2.5BA Townhomes Gated Community on Bus Route 2508 SW 35th Place

**OPEN HOUSE Th & F 2-5, Sat 12-5**  
Contact Birdie Murnane, Venture Realty of North Florida at 352-222-8888 or visit [WWW.ALEXANDRACONDOS.COM](http://WWW.ALEXANDRACONDOS.COM) 2-29-26-5

>>>>Renovated 2BR/1BA, pool, walk to Shands, VA, Health Sci. & heart of UF, >>>>1700 SW 16th ct. ~800 sq.ft \$128K call 262-0444 FREE computer! 1700 SW 16th ct. 2-22-08-15-5

2BR/2BA Beautiful fully furn Rockwood Villas condo. Sunrm, bonus rm, wd flrs, ceramic tile, 1yr home warranty. See pics: craigslist.org, select gainesville, real estate for sale, enter 551736017, call 373-6191, 213-5476 2-20-5-5

4BR/4BA LUXURY CONDO-NR SORORITY ROW-BLT AUG 05 \$275K INCL ALL APPL AVAILABLE SUMMER 2008 ELEVATOR ON PREMISE 2-28-11-5

Always Renting? Buy a 3bd 2ba Home only \$200/mo! 5%dn, 20yrs @ 8%apr! For Listings (800)482-9419. 2-15-1-5

\$477/Mo! 4BR/2BA HUD Home! (5% down 20 years @ 8% apr) More Homes Available from \$199/Mo! For listings call (800)366-9783 Ext 5669. 2-15-1-5

**5 Real Estate**

Greenville, SC Own a Beautiful, New 3BD/2BA Home for only 5% down & Owner Will Finance. Monthly pmts. From \$695.00 Call (888)579-0275. 2-15-1-5

**BANK FORECLOSURES!** Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! Repos, REOs, HUD, FHA, etc. These homes must sell. For listings call (800)706-1746 Ext 4731. 2-15-1-5

**Foreclosures!** Buy 1-4bd Homes from \$199/mo Financing Refs Available! 5%dn, 20yrs @ 8%apr! For Listings & info (800)482-9419. 2-15-1-5

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● Sunrise Auto Sales  
● Free service until end of contract  
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● 06 Honda Civic EX, 2Dr, 39k, Blk \$11,999  
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**14 Help Wanted**

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# Sports

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## Vandy out for revenge after blowout loss

■ THE LAST TIME UF PLAYED AT VANDY FORMER GUARD BRANDON POWELL PUNCHED A FAN.

By DANNY KLEIN  
Alligator Staff Writer  
dklein@alligator.org

The last time UF headed to Nashville, it was chaos.

On Feb. 17, 2007, almost exactly a year ago, the top-ranked Gators took a 17-game win streak into Memorial Gymnasium. Vanderbilt stunned and embarrassed UF 83-70, but the score was hardly the story.

At the game's conclusion, fans filed out of their seats and stormed the oddly designed court, climbing onto the elevated hardwood and creating bedlam as the teams searched for the exits.

One UF player, former guard Brandon Powell, got caught up in the mix. Powell was seen on tape punching a Vanderbilt fan. The guard was suspended and eventually transferred to Marshall this past off-season.

Naturally, you would think UF would be out for revenge Saturday, when the Gators (19-6, 6-4 Southeastern Conference) take on No. 24 Vanderbilt (21-4, 6-4 SEC), but in reality it's the Commodores who have vengeance on their minds.

This Gators team, devoid of most of the players involved in last year's contest, throttled then-No. 14 Vanderbilt 86-64 just a few weeks ago.

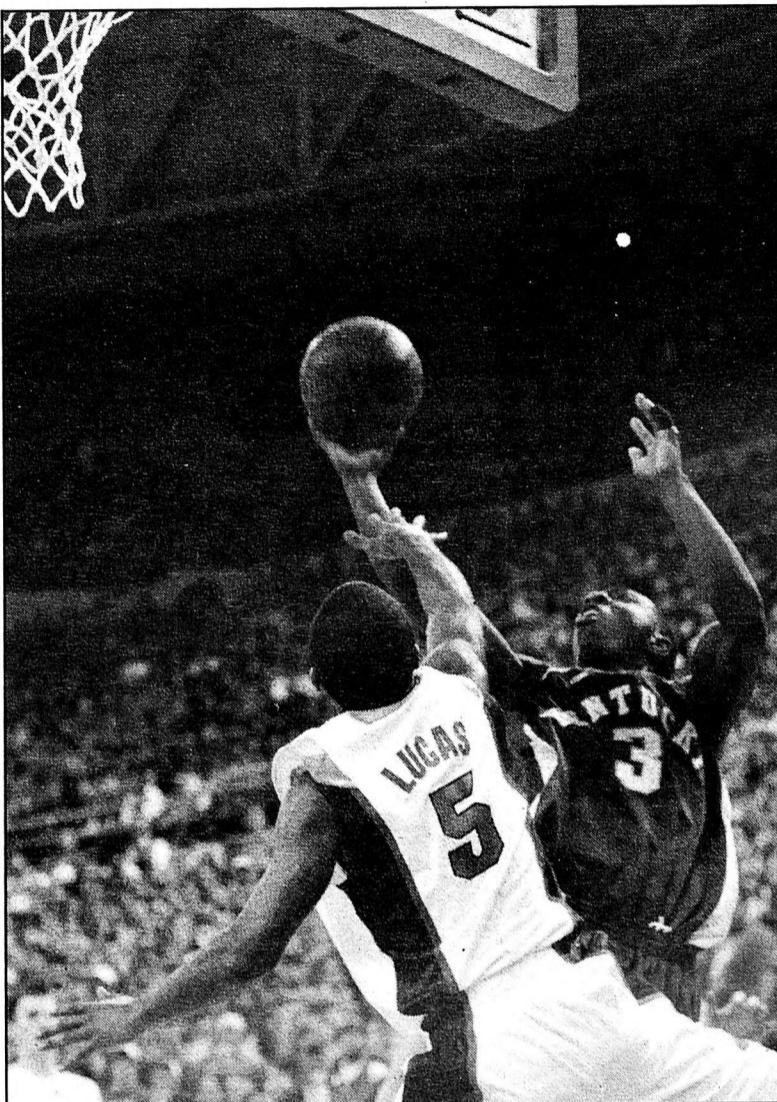
"It's going to be a dog fight out there," UF forward Chandler Parsons said. "I'm sure they're not going to have good feelings toward us knowing that we beat them by 20 once before."

Guard Jai Lucas echoed that sentiment.

"I'm pretty sure they're looking for vengeance playing us the second time," Lucas said. "We really just have to be focused."

Vanderbilt is 15-0 at home this year and, in its last game, exacted revenge on a Kentucky team they lost to earlier this season. The Commodores embarrassed the

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 23



Casey Brooke Lawson / Alligator

UF point guard Jai Lucas blocks Kentucky's Ramel Bradley during the Gators 81-70 victory against the Wildcats at home on Jan. 19.

### UF GYMNASTICS

## Smith rediscovers enjoyment of sport

By BOBBY CALLOVI  
Alligator Writer  
bcallovi@alligator.org

Before arriving at UF in January, Maranda Smith had forgotten what she enjoyed about gymnastics.

In just over a month with the No. 3 Gators (5-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference), she has been reminded of all the fun she used to have competing.

"I lost what was fun about gymnastics," Smith said. "I couldn't even tell people if they asked me, 'Oh, what's so fun about doing the sport?' I would be like, 'I don't know; I hate it right now.'

"Being here the past six weeks, I just found out why gymnastics is fun, and I'm

just so happy to be here."

Smith transferred to UF after more than a year away from the sport due to a knee injury she suffered in her second meet at UCLA.

After the injury, Smith feared she would never compete again but is now one of UF's strongest performers on the uneven parallel bars and is working her way into the floor rotation.

"Floor was the place where we had the least amount of depth, so we were excited about her performance at Pittsburgh," UF coach Rhonda Faehn said. "It's just icing on the cake that she is doing

so well on the bars, too."

Against the Panthers, Smith finished in the top three on the floor exercise for the first time in her college career, with a third-place score of 9.875.

Although she is still looking for higher scores on the bars, Smith has been moved into the leadoff spot in the event for her consistent performance — she switched positions in the lineup with Nicola Willis.

Smith has yet to fall on the bars, while some of her other teammates have struggled this year.

Returning to competition hasn't been the only reason for her rediscovering the love she once felt for gymnastics.

SEE GYM, PAGE 23



Smith

### SCOREBOARD

#### Men's basketball

Wake Forest	78
Florida State	70
NHL	
Lightning	5
Flyers	3

### I DID NOT KNOW THAT

■ The UF baseball team was picked to finish fifth in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division as voted on by the league's coaches. Only Alabama received fewer points. Vanderbilt was picked to win the SEC.

### alligatorSports.org POLL QUESTION

**Today's question:** Which remaining team is the UF men's basketball team most likely to upset?

• Tennessee • Mississippi St. • Vanderbilt

**Friday's question:** Should football prospects

be allowed to make verbal commitments before beginning their senior year of high school?

Percent (Votes)

Yes 54% (26)

No 46% (22)

48 TOTAL VOTES

## UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Gators fall in game dominated by Georgia frontcourt

**By PHIL KEGLER**  
Alligator Staff Writer  
pkegler@alligator.org

ATHENS, Ga. — It may have been Valentine's Day, but the baskets in Stegeman Coliseum showed the UF women's basketball team no love Thursday night.

The margin was slightly smaller than the teams' Jan. 24 meeting in Gainesville, but the game had a similar feel as the Bulldogs (18-7, 5-5 SEC) routed the Gators 85-66 in Athens.

UF (15-10, 4-6 SEC) shot just 36.4 percent, and Georgia countered with a 47.8-percent shooting night. Combine that with the Gators committing more turnovers (21 to 13) and getting outrebounded (38-36), and it was too much to beat a Georgia team that played No. 7 LSU to within 6 points on the road Sunday.

"We just got our butts kicked in the paint, and we turned the ball over too much on the perimeter," UF coach Amanda Butler said. "You can't beat a good team with those two factors existing."

Georgia All-American forward Tasha Humphrey had her way down low, scoring a season-high 32 points on 13-of-18 shooting and adding 11 rebounds. The 6-foot-3 senior even stepped behind the 3-point line and drained three of her five from behind the arc.

"It was easy for me," Humphrey said. "Everything I shot except for 3s, I was two or three feet away from the basket."

UF switched to zone defense throughout the game to try to stop Humphrey, and the Bulldogs 3-point shooters' made them pay. Georgia shot 8 of 17 from behind the arc in the first half. Freshman

forward Angela Puleo had a career-high 18 points.

"We did a poor job in transition defense of matching up, which is always an indication that you're not communicating," Butler said. "When we left people open, they found the open person, and the open person hit it. ... I didn't feel like we did anything to ever counter that. We didn't ever adjust."

**"We did a poor job in transition defense of matching up, which is always an indication that you're not communicating."**

**Amanda Butler**  
UF women's basketball coach

UF forward Marshae Dotson wasn't much of a factor in the paint, attempting just five shots on her way to scoring 6 points, her third-lowest output of the season. Humphrey's defense frustrated Dotson all night, and the junior earned a technical foul in the second half for arguing a foul call.

"[The technical foul] is just a lack of composure, which Marshae's better than," Butler said. "It's tough when you're on the road. Things aren't going to go the way you want them to go, whether it's shots falling or the calls, but especially if you're an upperclassmen and captain, you've got to be able to handle that type of adversity."

UF once again started slow, allowing Georgia to jump out to a 10-2 lead in the first two minutes. The Gators battled back to cut the lead to 24-23 with 7:48 left in the

first half. The Bulldogs answered with a 24-8 run to end the half, opening up a 48-31 halftime lead.

"We just need to be more consistent as a team," said senior guard Depree Bowden, who had 12 points on 4-of-9 shooting. "We got it down to 1, and then they went back up like 15. We can't have that."

In the second half, UF again clawed to keep things close, forcing turnovers with its full-court press and closing the lead to 55-45 with 13:35 remaining. Neither team would score for the next 50 seconds, but then Georgia scored 6 straight, and the Gators would never threaten again.

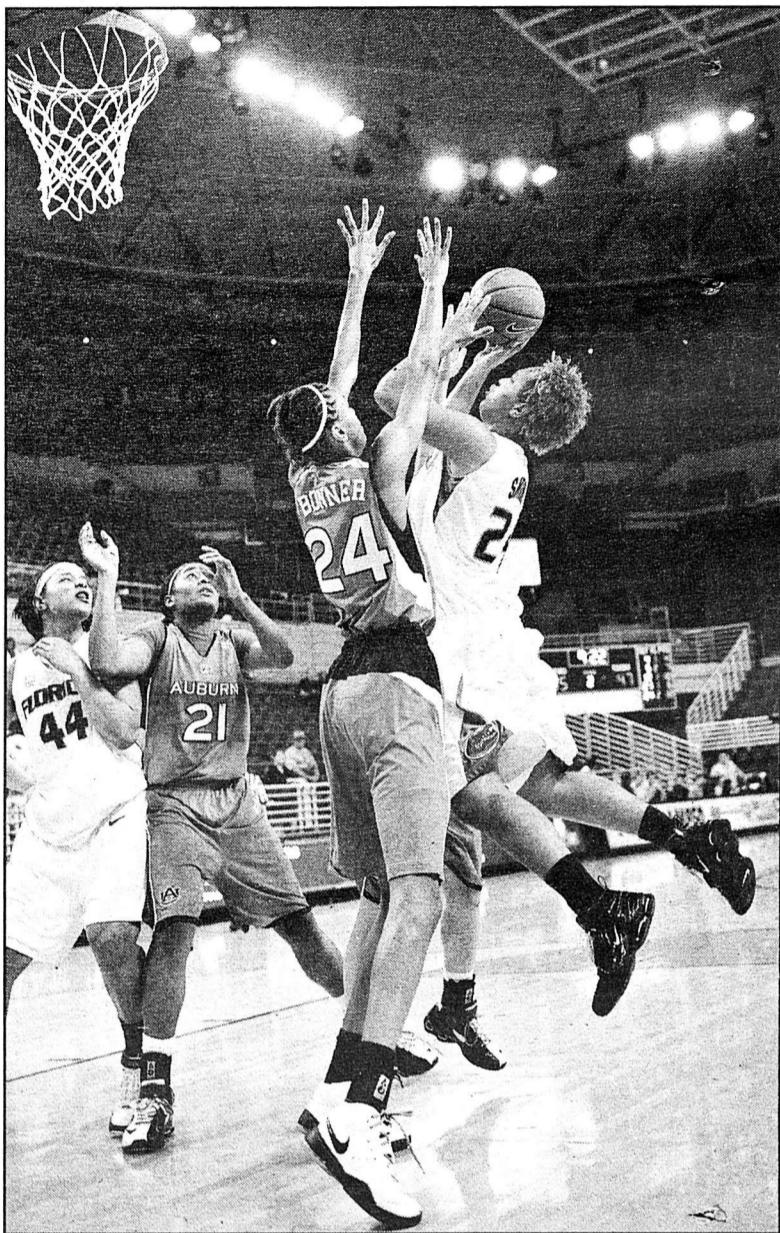
UF will look to rebound Sunday when it hosts Arkansas at 2 p.m. The Gators blew out the Razorbacks 92-74 in Fayetteville on Jan. 20.

Butler hopes her team will take better care of the ball after having "flashbacks to November" when it came to all the turnovers.

"They're unforced turnovers," Butler said. "I don't feel like that Georgia was doing something to us defensively that we couldn't handle or figure out."

UF 66	Player	Min.	Pts.	Reb.	Ast.
S. Brooks		34	12	5	1
D. Bowden		30	12	2	1
S. Smith		28	14	10	2
M. Dotson		24	6	6	2
A. Henry		24	2	6	0
J. Mossor		23	9	1	0
K. Critton		17	7	3	0
B. Thomas		13	4	1	2

Georgia 85	Player	Min.	Pts.	Reb.	Ast.
T. Humphrey		37	32	11	1
A. Houts		37	4	2	9
A. Robinson		30	4	8	2
A. Puleo		25	18	0	3
M. Darrah		24	5	4	1
C. Marshall		22	16	5	1
J. Lee		10	4	3	0
J. Rhoden		4	2	0	0



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF forward Sharielle Smith (right) led the Gators with 14 points and 10 rebounds Thursday night in UF's 85-66 loss at Georgia.

## FSU places teams on two-year probation for test scandal

### About 60 athletes lose eligibility

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**Wade, Marques set up their own road to Bulls**

# Former UF standout Gal kicks off pro career in Hawaii

**By ANDY HUTCHINS**  
Alligator Writer

For Sandra Gal, a week in Hawaii is more than a vacation: It's a wake-up call.

"I have a job now," the former UF golfer said. "It's kind of hard to understand. Golf has always

been my hobby, and now it's my work."

It's a job that takes her all over the country.

"(Golf means) traveling and seeing a lot of different golf courses," she said.

Gal started her pro career in Kahuku, Hawaii, Thursday at the

SBS Open at Turtle Bay.

And golf, at the professional level, means a different level of independence than the two-time All-American was accustomed to at UF.

"It's hard if you don't have anyone with you," Gal conceded. "I'm going to miss the support from the

team and the whole college feeling. I had a really great three and a half years at UF," she said.

Gal said UF's program was instrumental in helping her realize her professional dreams.

"I think you need to play college golf to be successful as a professional here," she said, citing differences in American and European courses and players.

But after she earned her Tour membership at the vaunted Q-School, the PGA's qualifying tournament, in November, Gal and UF women's golf coach Jill Briles-Hinton, who called her "head and shoulders above" the field at the event, both knew the LPGA was the only option.

**"I think you need to play college golf to be successful as a professional here."**

**Sandra Gal**  
former UF golfer

"A chance like that you just don't throw away," Gal said.

Still, she's got a backup plan, should she need it. Gal is communicating with professors and classmates by phone and e-mail and will finish her degree in advertising this May.

Freshman Jessica Yadloczky, who only played with Gal for the Gators' fall semester, said it didn't take long for her to realize Gal was special.

"She led by example," Yadloczky said. "She would stay an hour and a half to two hours

after three and a half hours of required practice and work on things that she needed to perfect before upcoming tournaments.

"She went out there to get the job done."

And now, for Gal, that job gets tougher.

She knows the competition will get stiffer, and she knows she needs to get better.

"I think I need a lot more experience and practice," she said. "I need a little more consistency."

Thanks to a chance connection to one of the game's greats, she knows what success looks like.

"I played a practice round with Annika (Sorenstam) yesterday," Gal said. She shares a trainer with the Swede, arguably the most accomplished female golfer of all time. "It was amazing to see the way she plays. She almost doesn't make any mistakes."

Gal admitted she would be anxious for her first tee time, but she was sure it would subside.

"I'm very excited," she said on Wednesday. "I'm going to be nervous. But it'll just be on the first tee and it'll go away."

Gal finished her first round tied for 10th place with a two-under 70.

She was one stroke back from third place and three strokes off the leader.

She's optimistic about her chances and confident in her talents.

"Who knows?" she said. "If I have a good week, it could be a win or a top 10."



Nicole Saffer / Alligator Staff

Former UF golfer Sandra Gal poses at the UF Golf Club in 2006. Gal began her professional career Thursday at the SBS Open at Turtle Bay in Kahuku, Hawaii.

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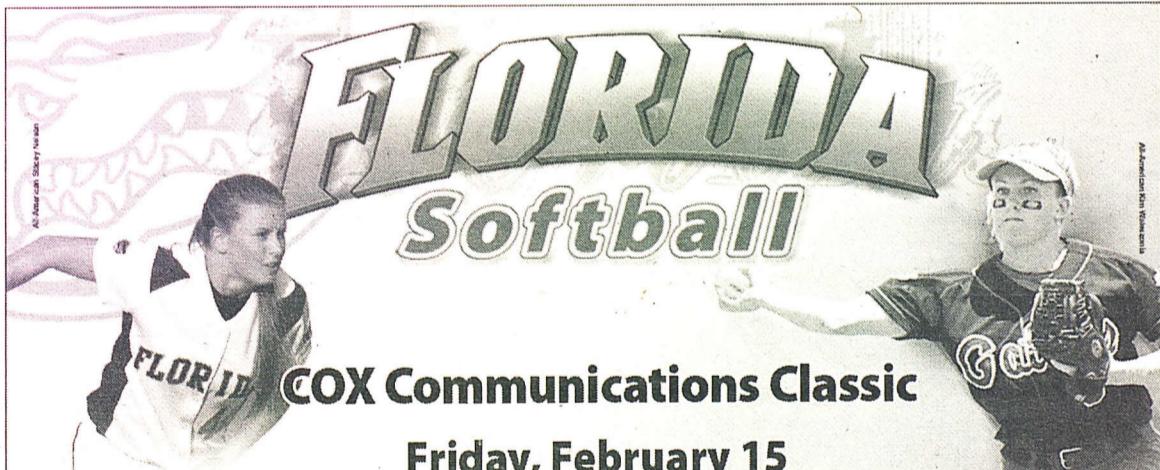
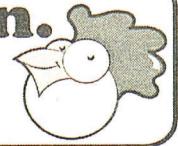
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# Coach revisits alma mater UNC for tennis match

**■ UF WILL TAKE ON NO. 15 DUKE TODAY BEFORE PLAYING NO. 5 NORTH CAROLINA ON SUNDAY.**

By CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC

Alligator Writer  
cyazbec@alligator.org

UF women's tennis coach Roland Thornqvist will eye his former colors this weekend when his team takes a trip down Tobacco Road.

Thornqvist, who played at North Carolina from 1990-93 and coached there from 1999-2001, will try to knock off his alma mater on Sunday.

In just his first season at the helm in Chapel Hill, Thornqvist led an inexperienced UNC team to its first-ever NCAA berth. His next stop after three years at his school was UF.

"It's always special. It's just a place — you know, the indoor center where I played as a student athlete, and they've

got banners up," Thornqvist said. "I'm going to have tons of friends to come out to watch."

"So it's always fun to be back up here, especially if you win, obviously."

Thornqvist's Gators will have their hands full with his former school, but before his team gets the chance to play UNC, the No. 6 Gators must first make a stop about 20 minutes up the road.

UF will square off against No. 15 Duke today before taking on the No. 5 Tar Heels Sunday.

Thornqvist said each match will present its own unique challenges, but he added that one of the biggest things his team will have to overcome is playing in the indoor arenas.

"We've always been a pretty good road team," he said. "But being on the road and playing indoors at a place that we haven't played very many times, the court situation is probably the toughest thing."

"It's not being on the road per say, it's

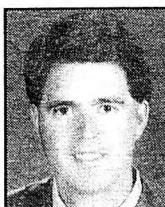
just the arena we're playing in, and getting used to that is probably our biggest challenge."

UF defeated both the Tar Heels and the Blue Devils in Gainesville last season, 4-3 and 6-1, respectively, but weren't as fortunate against UNC two years ago in Chapel Hill, losing 4-3.

"We didn't have very much good luck two years ago when we were up there playing them," Thornqvist said. "That was a bad day, obviously, me being an alum and all that."

"I know my friends watched that drama. So I'm hoping that we can perform better this year around."

UNC skyrocketed ahead of the Gators from No. 14 to No. 5 in the rankings this week after beating then-No. 2 UCLA and then-No. 8 Southern California in consecutive days last week at the Intercollegiate



Thornqvist

Tennis Association National Indoors.

The Tar Heels' run came to end on Saturday, however, when they fell to No. 2 Northwestern in the semifinals.

UF hasn't played in a match since Feb. 7 against Troy because its match against South Florida was canceled on Tuesday due to rain.

It was the fourth time in this early season that the Gators' match was postponed and the third because of bad weather.

Weather won't be an issue for UF this weekend playing in indoor arenas.

Instead, the Gators must face two teams that are certainly capable of knocking them off.

Thornqvist knows that the task at hand won't be easy, but he's willing to draw positives any way he can.

"It's going to be the two toughest matches we play all year really," he said. "Win or lose, we're going to really be tested. No matter what, it's going to be a good thing for us."

## Donovan: UF doesn't absorb, understand, embrace or believe in defense

### HOOPS, from page 20

Wildcats to the tune of a 41-point blowout on national TV, a game where Kentucky had a mere 11 points at halftime.

If UF hopes to avoid a similar fate, the Gators will have to reverse their recent downward spiral.

UF has lost three of its last four games, all by double digits. Coach Billy Donovan said he's seen progress from his team during its struggles.

He said the team played poorly against Arkansas but responded well against No. 4 Tennessee and were simply outplayed by LSU.

"I don't even think we should talk about offense."

Billy Donovan  
UF men's basketball coach

At the heart of UF's recent troubles has been defense. The Gators allowed LSU to shoot 60 percent in Wednesday's 85-73

defeat, and are allowing over 80 points per game in their six losses.

"I don't even think we should talk about offense," Donovan said. "We don't absorb (defense), understand it, embrace it or believe in it right now."

As Donovan predicted, the players continue to say the right

things. Parsons and Lucas spoke about the importance of buckling down on both ends of the court.

"We're not going to beat anybody without stopping anybody," Parsons said. "It has to become our No. 1 priority. We understand that it needs to be for us to be successful, but we're just not really doing it."

## Enea adjusts to outfield

### SOFTBALL, from page 20

a new best for most victories to start a season — the 2005 squad got off to an 11-0 start before finally losing to Notre Dame. If they get a chance to break that mark, it will come on Saturday against East Tennessee State.

The Gators will look for more production out of both the leadoff and cleanup spots in the lineup as they head into the six-game tournament.

All-American sparkplug Kim Waleszonia has gotten off to a slow start after lofty preseason expectations. Waleszonia, who tops UF's career batting average list with a lifetime .338 average, is hitting just .211 through the first week of the season.

She made it clear prior to the start of the season that individual goals are not something she is striving for.

"I like to just come out and play with my teammates, and good things will come from that as a team," she said.

Waleszonia has found other ways to contribute without hitting for her usual high average. Coming into the weekend, she leads the team in runs (8) and stolen bases (5). The quick-footed leadoff hitter is on pace to shatter the Gators' single-season stolen base mark (24), which she set a year ago.

Sophomore outfielder Francesca Enea seemed to be coming around at the plate on Wednesday. The four-hole hitter has posted an average of just .235 — though she did hit her first home run of the season.

Enea's production is likely to rise as she becomes more comfortable with her new position in the outfield. She tore her anterior cruciate ligament last season and had to make the switch after bearing much of the catching duties last year.

"It's a slow learning process," she said. "I feel more comfortable after each pitch."



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF gymnast Maranda Smith performs her floor routine during a Feb. 1 win against Arkansas in the O'Connell Center.

## Team grows closer

### GYM, from page 20

"The girls were all really open when I first came, and they are really nice girls," Smith said. "The coaches were all really understanding with my injury, and they just make it fun."

Her switch to UF almost seemed too easy. Smith seemed to mesh with the other gymnasts immediately.

"We were just talking about that the other day, how she fit right in," said Corey Hartung, one of the team's co-captains.

"We're all really close friends now."

Success in the two events isn't enough for Smith — next year she hopes to be able to compete in the vault as well.

"Eventually, I would like to start doing vault again, but right now they just have me focused on bar and floor so I don't hurt my leg too much," Smith said.

Smith and the other Gators will need to be at the top of their game tonight when they host No. 6 LSU (8-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) in the second annual Link to Pink meet.

Both teams will shed their team colors to help raise awareness for breast cancer and wear pink leotards.

"It is really a tremendous opportunity for all of us here at the university to do whatever we can to help such a tremendous cause," Faehn said.

## UF TRACK AND FIELD

# Gators prep for SEC Championships with Iowa trip

**By MIKE DiFERDINANDO**  
Alligator Writer

Even with 31 victories and 29 NCAA provisional marks this season, UF coach Mike Holloway wants to see some improvement.

"We want to improve on what we did a couple weeks ago," he said. "We still have some areas that we need to shore up."

The Gators will have an opportunity to do just that when they make the long trip to Ames, Iowa for the Iowa State Classic this weekend. Holloway doesn't

believe the distance will make a difference in this weekend's meet.

This is the first of two trips to Ames for the Gators this season. The second will come on March 8 for the Iowa State qualifier.

But before then, UF has a few loose ends to tie up this weekend.

"We definitely want to get better in the 800 [meters] and the hurdles," Holloway said. "We also have a few guys in the 60 [meters] that we think can do better."

The Gators have yet to win a hurdle event this season and only have two wins in the 800.

While Holloway expects tough competition, he's more concerned with how his team will perform over the weekend.



Holloway

"Anywhere you go in the country this time of year you are going to face great competition, but to be honest with you, it's not really about our competition," Holloway said. "As long as we do what we are supposed to do, we will be

fine."

Both the men's and women's teams are nationally ranked by the Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The men hold the No. 7 spot in the poll, while the women are No. 13.

The weekend's meet is the last before the Southeastern Conference Championships.

Holloway hopes that a strong performance will give the Gators momentum heading into the most important meet of the indoor season.

"Across the board, we just need

to get a little more consistency," Holloway said. "The biggest thing is that we continue to believe that we are one of the better teams in the country."

"People are starting to believe, but to really be successful, everyone on the team needs to believe."

Holloway will do his best to keep the team from looking ahead to the SEC Championships.

"We are just going to stress taking care of the Gators this week," Holloway said. "We can't worry about what other people are doing."

## Dolphins release seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker Thomas

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