



CINCINNATI 24 UF 51

Senior class finishes with third BCS win



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

UF quarterback Tim Tebow laps the field after the Gators' 51-24 win over Cincinnati at the Sugar Bowl on Friday inside the Super Dome in New Orleans, La.

By KYLE MAISTRI
 Alligator Staff Writer
 kmaistri@alligator.org

NEW ORLEANS — It didn't end with a Heisman Trophy or a BCS national championship.

But it sure was memorable.

Tim Tebow and Florida's senior class let the chance to win its third national championship in four years slip away after losing to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, but that didn't keep them from going out winners against Cincinnati (12-1).

Tebow threw for 482 yards and three touchdowns as the Gators (13-1) rolled over the Bearcats 51-24 in the Sugar Bowl.

With the win, UF became the first FBS program to win 13 games in back-to-back seasons.

The senior class will leave Gainesville with two national championships, two SEC titles and a 48-7 record, the best in conference history.

"That's a special group," UF coach Urban Meyer said. "They made a statement as freshmen that we want to go down as one of the best ever and let's put a little plan together and you guys stick together and follow the plan and let's see what happens. And they followed the plan."

Giving Meyer plenty of time to plan

has often resulted in big point totals in bowl games.

But the offensive explosion — 659 yards of total offense — was a bit surprising considering the way the Crimson Tide held the Gators to 13 points and 335 yards of offense.

In conference games this season, including the SEC Championship Game, UF averaged 26 points and 371 yards of total offense per game.

Whenever they stepped out of conference, the Gators feasted on opposing defenses.

Florida averaged 48 points and 622 yards of total offense per game against its three non-conference bowl eligible opponents this season — Troy, Florida State and Cincinnati.

In the Sugar Bowl, Tebow shattered his previous career high for passing yards — 338 against Florida Atlantic in 2007 — and set a new BCS bowl record for total yards (533), breaking the 467-yard mark set by Texas' Vince Young against USC in the 2006 Rose Bowl.

"I didn't see this coming as far as that many yards and everything," Tebow said. "I knew we had a good game plan. I knew we were going to try to spread it out a little bit. We felt like that would be successful."

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 22

ON CAMPUS

EPA fines UF for pollution

By JENNIFER BATE
 Alligator Writer

UF has agreed to pay \$175,000 in federal pollution fines after inspectors discovered soil and groundwater contamination on campus from March 2008.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the university has not completed its investigation of the contamination and is still trying to determine if a cleanup will be required.

Environmental Protection Agency inspectors said tetrachloroethylene levels in the soil and groundwater were higher than allowed by state regulations.

Tetrachloroethylene is a colorless, sweet-smelling chemical and a non-flammable or-

ganic liquid.

It is commonly used in aerosol dry-cleaning products and as a metal degreaser, according to the EPA.



Sikes

According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, tetrachloroethylene is also known to cause liver damage and is suspected to cause cancer.

At high levels, tetrachloroethylene could also cause damage to the nervous system, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

SEE POLLUTION, PAGE 10

Goerings Book Store to close after 38 years

By CJ PRUNER
 Alligator Writer

One of Gainesville's oldest bookstores will be writing its final chapter this semester.

Goerings Book Store, 1717 NW First Ave., will close after 38 years of business.

"At this point in time, Gainesville just isn't friendly to bookstores," said

Thomas Rider, one of the store's co-owners. "It's disappointing."

Rider pointed to the recession, the store's location and competition from online shopping and chain bookstores as key factors that led to the store's decline.

Although the chain bookstores

SEE GOERINGS, PAGE 10

■ How long offensive coordinator Steve Addazio will fill in as head coach while Urban Meyer takes a leave of absence is just one of a few question marks for UF this offseason. See Story, Page 28.



Armed man robs local lingerie shop on University Avenue Saturday night

Gainesville police are searching for a man who robbed local lingerie shop French Addiction, 819 W University Ave., at gunpoint Saturday night.

According to a police report, a clerk was alone when a man knocked on the locked door.

He looked around then opened his jacket, revealing a sign saying he had a gun and not to panic.

The man demanded the clerk give him money from the open cash register then left by bicycle after receiving it.

Police searched the area and UF campus but were unable to find the man.

The suspect was described as a black male, 45 to 55 years old and wearing a dark jacket and beanie cap.

-KATHERINE BEIN

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

DDIG Workshop

Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Marston Science Library, Room L107

Graduate students in social, behavioral and economic sciences are encouraged to attend this workshop on how to apply for NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants (DDIG) from \$6,000 to \$20,000. The event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required.

Get Lucky with Languages

Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Reitz Union Colonnade
Spin the wheel, ring your buzzer, go fish and play games of chance and knowledge to win prizes. Learn a little bit of 10 languages and get a free pocket language guide with the Center for European Studies and Asian Studies.



Gerard donated in his mother's name.




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NEWSROOM
352-376-4458 (Voice), 352-376-4467 (Fax)
Editor Chelsea Keenan, ckeenan@alligator.org
Managing Editor / Print Emily Fuggetta, efuggetta@alligator.org
Managing Editor / Online J. Hunter Sizemore, jhsizemore@alligator.org
Metro Editors Jared Misner, jmisner@alligator.org
Alison Schwartz, aschwartz@alligator.org
University Editor Carolyn Tillo, ctillo@alligator.org
Opinions Editor Will Olsen, wolsen@alligator.org
Sports Editor Bobby Callovi, bcallovi@alligator.org
Assistant Sports Editor Mike McCall, mmccall@alligator.org
alligatorSports.org Editor Anthony Chiang, achiang@alligator.org
Editorial Board Chelsea Keenan, Emily Fuggetta, J. Hunter Sizemore, Will Olsen
Photo Editors Ana Goni-Lessan, agonilessan@alligator.org
Matt Tripp, mtripp@alligator.org
Freelance Editor Rachael Pino, rpino@alligator.org
the Avenue Editor Ashley Ross, aross@alligator.org
Copy Desk Chiefs Jack Bengel, Emily Blake, Alex Chachkevitch, Kyle Maistri Sanika Dange, Ashley Hemmy, Amanda Milligan, Emily Morrow, George Pappas, Paul Runnestrand
Copy Editors

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
352-376-4482, 800-496-0265 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)
Advertising Director Gary Miller, gmiller@alligator.org
Advertising Office Manager Victoria Livingston, vlivingston@alligator.org
Advertising Assistant Melissa Bell
Sales Development Shaun O'Connor
Intern Coordinator Sara Ingebretsen
Display Advertising Clerks Caitlin Dilks, Sara Ingebretsen, Samantha Owen
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
352-373-FIND (Voice), 352-376-3015(Fax)
Classified Advertising Manager Ellen Light, elight@alligator.org
Classified Clerks Ashley Flattery, Wildivina Rosario

CIRCULATION
Operations Assistant David Carlson

BUSINESS
352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)
Comptroller Ramona Malloy
Senior Bookkeeper Melissa Bell, mbell@alligator.org
Accounting Clerks Stephen Roskowski, Dyana Sanchez
Assistant Bookkeeper Amanda Miller

ADMINISTRATION
352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)
General Manager Patricia Carey, tcarey@alligator.org
Administrative Manager Dyana Sanchez
Administrative Assistant Lenora McGowan, lmcgowan@alligator.org
President Emeritus C.E. Barber, cebarber@alligator.org

SYSTEMS
Desktop Support Manager Kevin Hart

PRODUCTION
Production Manager Stephanie Gocklin, sgocklin@alligator.org
Assistant Production Manager Erica Bales, ebales@alligator.org
Advertising Production Staff Shannon Close, Doug Eastman, Briana O'Sullivan
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Freeze hits Gainesville hard with temperatures in the 20s

■STUDENTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOL AND TO WEAR LAYERS.

By **MELINDA CARSTENSEN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

This week, those returning to Gainesville will be welcomed with new classes, new teachers and comparatively cooler weather.

The cool weather is the result of an arctic air mass affecting Gainesville and the rest of Florida as far south as Lake Okeechobee.

Temperatures in Gainesville are expected to drop to 21 degrees tonight and to 23 degrees on Wednesday night, said Phil Peterson, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville.

This hard freeze is expected to hit Gainesville almost every night through Sunday, Peterson said.

A hard freeze occurs when a temperature falls below 27 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours.

Peterson said temperatures for this month are significantly lower than they were last January.

Although there were two hard freezes in the middle of last January, Peterson said there was mostly warm weather in Gainesville.

On Jan. 6, 2009, the high in Gainesville was 80 degrees, and the average monthly temperature was 17 degrees higher than normal, he said.

"What's different about this air mass is that it's going to stay in one place for a week, which is very unusual," Peterson said. "This blocking pattern is happening all throughout the country."

Lauren McKeague of the Florida Division of Emer-

gency Management advises those experiencing hard freezes to follow the "Five P's" of cold weather safety: protecting people, protecting plants, protecting pets, protecting exposed pipes and practicing fire safety.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management advises students to drink nonalcoholic fluids and wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing.

Students should also try to stay dry and in wind-protected areas.

"What's different about this air mass is that it's going to stay in one place for a week, which is very unusual. This blocking pattern is happening all throughout the country."

Phil Peterson

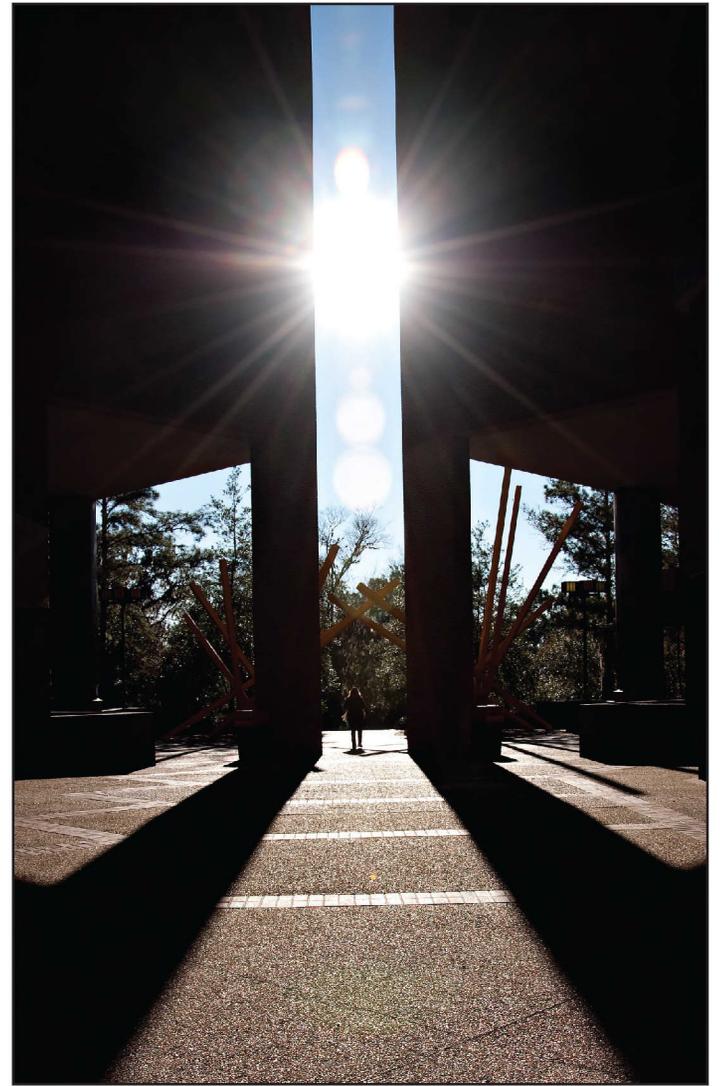
forecaster at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville

The Florida Division of Emergency Management also warns against the indoor use of charcoal or other fuel-burning devices, such as grills that produce carbon monoxide.

Peterson said residents should bring all potted plants inside and cover those that are outside with sheets or blankets.

"Plants really need to be covered up if you can't bring them inside and insulated against the cold because we're talking a killing freeze here," he said. Because the air is extremely dry, Peterson advises that those in wooded areas be careful and exercise extreme caution when burning anything.

For more information, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.



Charles Roop / Alligator

A woman walks near the Marston Science Library Monday. The weather was clear but cold for most of the day and is expected to continue on Tuesday.

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Locals have mixed views on health bill

■ **ABORTION IS A KEY FACTOR.**

By CJ PRUNER
Alligator Writer

In a step toward strengthening President Barack Obama's call for health care reform, the U.S. Senate passed a bill on Christmas Eve aimed at overhauling America's health care system.

The final bill, which passed 60 to 39, calls for the injection of \$871 billion of government funds over the span of 10 years in order to provide more affordable health care for millions of Americans.

Similar to the House bill, which passed in November, the Senate version has been met with mixed reactions.

Liberals praise the legislation as a necessary measure, while conservatives are uncomfortable with the bill's heavy spending and potential invasion of the private sector.

Ben Cavaturo, president of the Florida College Democrats, praised the Senate's ability to pass a bill he said will provide health care to 30 million Americans, strengthen Medicare, reduce the federal deficit by \$100 billion over the next 10 years and allow students to remain on their parents' health insurance until they turn 26.

"It's really a big step forward," he said. "It's not easy to get 60 Senators to agree on anything, let alone something as big as health care reform."

Cavaturo said he is disappointed with the Senate bill's lack of a public option but believes its cuts to inefficient programs and provisions for low-income Americans will offer much-needed relief.

Bryan Griffin, chairman of the UF College Republicans, views the Senate bill as reckless spending resulting from bribes made by politicians bent on staying in power.

He said Democrats want to create public dependence on national

health care, which would make it harder for voters to take them out of office.

Griffin pointed to Medicaid provisions to states with Senators on the fence, such as Nebraska and Louisiana, as evidence of shady politicking and the Democrats' efforts to purchase votes.

"The corruption is really starting to come through," he said. "If I saw someone in the UF Senate doing what they're doing in [the U.S. Senate] now, I'd do everything in my power to have them removed. What they are doing is criminal."

As Americans continue to debate where federal money should go, the issue of abortion has also taken a place in the public spotlight.

Under the Senate bill, Americans with government health plans could use money for abortions as long as they make two premium payments: one for abortion coverage and another for all other medical needs.

Staci Fox, CEO of Planned Parenthood of North Florida, opposes the "segregation of funds" and said these measures discourage women from accessing health services like abortion.

"We don't want to go backwards and create more obstacles than women already have," she said. "It's time for Congress to trust women."

Jennifer Cyr, the vice president of the UF Pro-Life Alliance, said most pro-life supporters would not want taxpayer money to fund abortion.

"I wouldn't want my money to fund the killing of a person," Cyr said.

Paying for abortions, according to Cyr, would represent a sense of disrespect for human dignity.

While voters and representatives wrestle with the legislation's effects, both the House and Senate bills must go through a bipartisan conference committee before becoming law.

UF ALUMNI

Gator launches jewelry line

By ERICA JOHNSON
Alligator Writer

During Amanda Levison's time at UF, she struggled to find gifts for her friends on a tight budget.

She found her solution in jewelry.

Levison, a 28-year-old psychotherapist from Fort Lauderdale, expanded her creativity with jewelry in 2006 to start AJ Designs, through which she makes and sells more than 90 pieces, ranging from bracelets to dog accessories.

Levison traced her passion for handcrafted jewelry to a very early age.

"I was about 7 or 8, and everyone was doing simple knotted bracelets, but I was

"I'm not going to make something that I wouldn't want to keep, and I'm very much a jeans and flip-flops person, so I like to make things that are fit for work and play."

Amanda Levison
UF graduate

doing really crazy designs," she said.

When Levison worked as a camp counselor during her summer break from college, she learned how to create a bracelet using beads and soon became a craft store regular.

These days, she gets inspiration for her pieces by browsing through magazines to see what's in style, but she said her personal style has a heavy influence on what she creates.

"I'm not going to make something that I wouldn't

want to keep, and I'm very much a jeans and flip-flops person, so I like to make things that are fit for work and play," she said.

She often uses semiprecious stones in her designs, the most popular being pearls and crystal.

The stones she works with can range from \$35 to \$200, she said.

But Levison said it's important to her to keep her pieces affordable.

Her least expensive de-

signs, beaded key chains, cost \$12.

She is working to get her creations into more stores and she someday hopes to have her own practice in psychotherapy so she can devote more time to developing her designs.

"I enjoy every aspect of what I do, especially the fact that I have been able to keep doing it, even though it started as a hobby," she said.

"I enjoy other people appreciating my art."



Photo courtesy of Amanda Levison

Amanda Levison models a necklace by AJ Designs, her jewelry line.



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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Taco Bell joins national shift toward healthier eating

By NERI STEIN

Alligator Contributing Writer

Some resolutions this year might come with a side of salsa.

As many people made New Year's resolutions, Taco Bell introduced its new Drive-Thru Diet, which includes seven new menu items each with nine grams of fat or less and no more than 340 calories.

Taco Bell's new diet also comes with its own spokeswoman, Christine Dougherty — reminiscent of

Subway's Jared Fogle — as it joins the ranks of other fast food chains that aim to help customers lose weight by eating their food.

Dougherty, who lost 54 pounds by joining Taco Bell's Frescolution by ordering items from the restaurant's Fresco menu, aims to align the "fourth meal" restaurant with the health-conscious market.

The new diet items have a layer of fiesta salsa in place of cheese usually found on any item at Taco Bell.

On its Web site, Taco Bell lists

"We already get lots of orders with no dairy and add salsa. You can do it with anything on the menu."

Cassie Tillman

assistant manager at the Reitz Union Taco Bell

a disclaimer, informing potential dieters the new Drive-Thru Diet actually isn't a diet at all.

Dougherty is quoted as saying her results aren't typical. She

alludes to making other sensible choices aside from the Drive-Thru Diet, but she fails to mention what those other choices are.

At least one Taco Bell, the Reitz Union location, isn't participating in the Frescolution.

Cassie Tillman, assistant manager at the Reitz' Taco Bell, said the fiesta salsa has been available for at least a year now, but she isn't sure if people like it for dietary reasons or personal preference.

Tillman said the new Drive-Thru Diet menu won't make its

way to campus because it's essentially already here.

"We already get lots of orders with no dairy and add salsa," Tillman said. "You can do it with anything on the menu."

Tillman also added the new diet probably wouldn't have much of an effect at UF's location, saying another Dougherty isn't likely to pop up at a college.

"It depends on the students, and if they want to eat healthy," she said.

UF senior wins scholarship to study at UK university

He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry

By ELIZABETH BEHRMAN

Alligator Writer

Steven Robinette was working in a laboratory in mid-November when he received the e-mail.

The UF senior found out he was one of 35 students across the country and the first from UF to receive the Marshall Scholarship.

"I just couldn't believe it," he said.

The scholarship, created by the U.K. government after the implementation of the Marshall Plan in 1953, will enable Robinette

to study for at least two years at Imperial College London as he pursues a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

Robinette said he has been looking into scholarships like the Marshall Scholarship since he got the information during the UF preview orientation.

"I've known for forever that I wanted to go live in Britain for at least a little while," he said.

The scholarship recipients got to choose in which school in the U.K. they wanted to study.

Robinette spent his junior year studying

at Imperial College London as a Barry M. Goldwater scholar and said he is excited to return.

"It makes it less intimidating," he said.

Robinette, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology in April, said he will enter as a master's student but wants to get funding to stay for a third year to get his Ph.D.

He said the application process was pret-

ty standard, including an online application, an interview and four letters of recommendation.

He said UF biomedical engineering professor Art Edison, who has been working and doing research with Robinette since Robinette was a freshman, was one of the people who inspired him the most throughout the course of his studies.

Edison said Robinette is a very hardworking and deserving student. He said he is a perfect example of how an undergraduate student can take advantage of the research opportunities at UF.

"He's going to go on to be a very well-known, well-regarded scientist," Edison said.



Robinette

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Editorial

Blacklisted

U.S. right to focus security efforts

Residents of troubled nations like Afghanistan, Somalia and Iraq face daily struggles that can sometimes mean life or limb. So it would stand to reason that an extra pat down at the airport would seem inconsequential, even trivial, to someone with such an intimate knowledge of what real hassles are.

But a recent push by the U.S. for tighter security on international flights — essentially an extra pat down and carry-on bag search — has drawn harsh criticism.

On Monday, these measures were put in place in response to a Nigerian man's attempt to ignite explosives on a Detroit-bound flight. According to the Associated Press, 14 countries were named in the new guidelines, including official state sponsors of terror such as Iran, Cuba, Sudan and Syria.

While the security risk posed by those few flights originating in Cuba is essentially zero, passengers from the other countries named may represent a legitimate threat to the U.S. These include Yemen, Libya, Nigeria and Lebanon; major acts of terrorism have been carried out or attempted by individuals from these countries in the recent past.

Critics raise the point that the attack that brought on this increased security originated in Amsterdam. It is true that any flight, regardless of its origin, could be a target.

But the choice to focus limited resources on those countries that pose the highest risk is wise, especially given the relatively poor security measures previously in place in these countries.

Given this narrow focus, the Nigerian Information Minister Dora Akunyili said Monday that these guidelines are discriminatory. Parallels are drawn to racial profiling, a subject with which U.S. security agencies, as well as the Transportation Security Administration in particular, have had a troubled past.

But the measures affect all passengers from those countries listed, regardless of race or ethnicity. Further, according to NPR, terrorist organizations like al-Qaida are broadening their recruiting efforts to individuals not fitting "the profile" — adolescent males of Middle Eastern descent. As the number of would-be terrorists who don't fit this profile grows, racial-profiling (whether it's moral or not) will be increasingly ineffective. This only furthers the need to focus on those countries where terrorist attacks are most likely to originate.

It is unfortunate that any group or nationality must be singled out for enhanced security. This profiling is antagonistic and may even contribute to perceptions of America as closed-minded or even prejudiced.

But when there are limited resources to accomplish such a daunting task as preventing terrorist attacks, an additional pat down or inspection is reasonable.

By focusing its efforts, the TSA is not assessing undue blame on these countries but rather fulfilling its obligation to the American people by pointing its flashlight (hopefully not just a metaphorical flashlight) where it's most likely to produce results.

The burden is now on the Obama administration to build goodwill with the international community in spite of these increased security measures. Hopefully as anti-America sentiments decrease, so too will the need for such profiling.

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
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Column

Help wanted: Desperately seeking... you

It's that time again.

While students all over Gainesville are focused on gathering textbooks and mapping their class routes to pass Starbucks, we at the Alligator are pulling out our hair and scrambling for staff.

Yes, we knew it was coming. Yes, we probably should have started our search earlier. But the fact is that we are desperately seeking students for every position imaginable. So come on over and bring your friends, neighbors, chinchilla or anyone else who's interested to our open house Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 1105 W University Ave. — the old vine-covered building next to Karma Cream.

But Friday is a long time away — four more issues of the Alligator — so if you're really excited, you can send resumes and samples to apply@alligator.org and start writing (or photographing, or cartooning, or doing handstands for our entertainment) immediately.

We have openings for an opinions editor, photographers, videographers, columnists, news writers, the Avenue writers, cartoonists, sports writers, graphic artists, copy editors, anyone who knows anything about Web sites, anyone who knows anything about anything, and anyone who knows nothing about anything. (Well, maybe not so much of the last one.)

That's where you come in.

Whether your major is journalism, economics, political science, ballet or wearing lots of orange and blue, we want you to apply.

In fact, a certain opinions editor who is abandoning us for a fancy Washington, D.C., internship is an economics major. If he can write editorials, anyone can.

If you want to write news stories, we ask that you can form a sentence and be objective. If you want to be opinions editor or write for the opinions section, we ask that you be super opinionated and willing to keep up with what's going on locally and/or nationally. If you want to do anything visual, we ask that you... have eyes. See? We're very flexible.

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



Emily Fuggetta and Chelsea Keenan

Editorial Notebook
letters@alligator.org

As cheesy as it sounds, we really do want to represent the Student Body, and the best way we can do that is to pull our staff from all spectra of... well, the Student Body.

However, this job is not for the faint of heart. It requires work and dedication. We should also mention that you'll spend most of your humble paycheck on coffee and food from the restaurants within walking distance of our office.

It's true — we work five days a week and hardly get any sleep (there's a big, comfy couch in the office), but we have fun. We decorate the office when it's our co-workers birthdays, we make brownies, watch bad TV shows and eat a lot of Mexican food.

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So send us an e-mail now while you ride the bus to your next class (we know you all have smart phones).

Chelsea Keenan is the editor in chief and Emily Fuggetta is the managing editor/print of the Independent Florida Alligator.

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Chelsea Keenan
EDITOR

Emily Fuggetta
J. Hunter Sizemore
MANAGING EDITORS

Will Olsen
OPINIONS EDITOR

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 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you cold?

Previous question: Will you miss us?

49% YES

51% NO

559 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org



Letter to the Editor

The real problem with health care in America: American doctors are exhibiting astronomical, unjustified, uncontrollable greed.

The solution: The government should fix health care prices.

If we do not control their godless greed, doctors who have bankrupted us as individuals in the past will now bankrupt us as a society. Price-fixing measures must come soon; the alterna-

tive is bankruptcy. The uncontrollable, horrible greed of the entire American medical system must be controlled.

Health care for all: great.

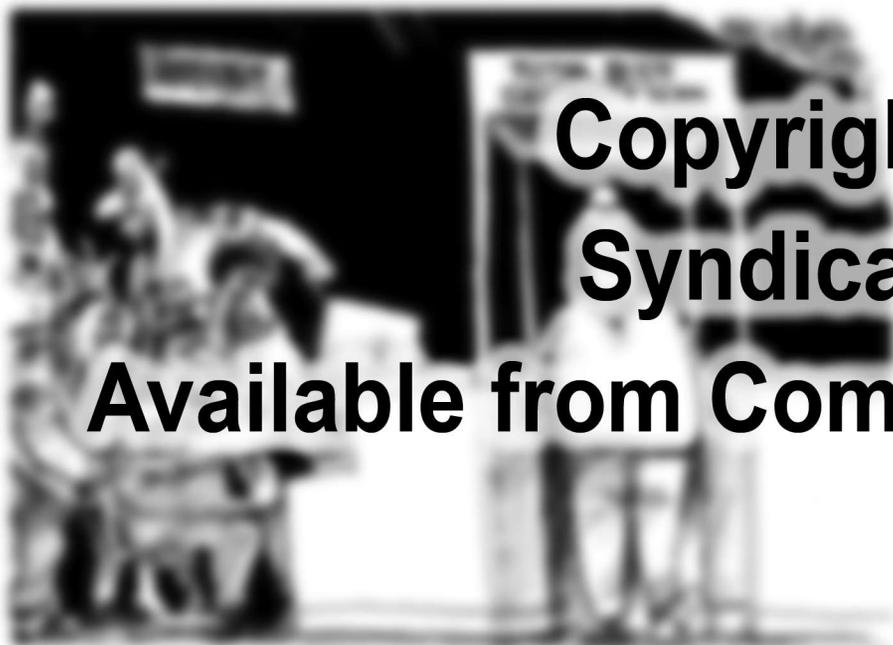
But at astronomical, unjustified, uncontrollable prices for Americans: godless!

Kenneth Maness
Davenport, Iowa

Editors' note: This letter was submitted via mass e-mail and appeared in other publications nationwide.

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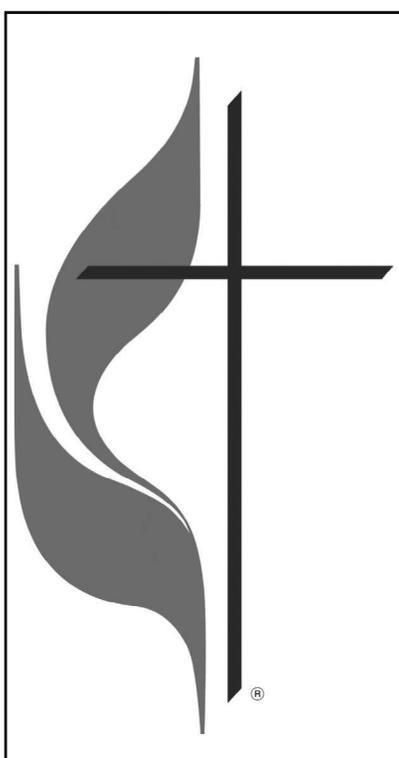
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Saints rising: a journey into the lives of missionaries

By **CJ PRUNER**
Alligator Writer

Editors' note: Every year, more than 52,000 Mormon missionaries descend upon the world. This is a four-part series that follows two such messengers.

God, Guns and Glory

When you're staring down the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun, the Promised Land can either look very hazy or pretty close — depending on your outlook on life.

The only thing standing between James Tate and a round of angry shells tearing through his anatomy was his Book of Mormon and a belief that there was a God and that He had made him fast — real fast.

"We got to go," insisted a hushed voice, carrying traces of urgency.

As Tate firmly jerked at the passenger's

side handle to the 2006 red Toyota Corolla that would take him away from the madness, he couldn't help but give way to a sweeping tide of sadness. Behind the pitch-black darkness that blanketed pine trees and mobile homes lived a soul — a thriving, beautiful soul that wanted to reach out for something more.

Salvation would have to wait.

As he sat back against the cold leather car seat, a mist of sweat seeping through his short brown hair, his eyes peered through the window and stole a glance at the hollering bald-headed figure adorned in a ragged shirt and cutoff jeans. Before his mind could wrap around what had just happened, the ignition roared to life, announcing retreat.

When he had submitted his name to become a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tate understood that his work would require a lot of faith and discipline to make it through the rough

patches. Nobody had ever told him, however, that he would need a bulletproof vest to defend himself against shotgun-wielding, testosterone-infused, redneck ex-boyfriends of baptism candidates.

He had already had a long day, helping a local Mormon ward construct the set for its play while getting his daily dosage of slammed doors and adamant refusals. But he forgot about those things when he flipped open his rumbling cell phone, which would summon him into the night.

For Tate and other missionaries, the call doesn't end—it only gets louder.

National News

Summoned Forth

It came on April 8, 2009. Bound in a thick manila envelope, it took nearly all the space within the mail box, shoving the bills and coupon lists aside.

What laid inside was enough to bring

Tate's stomach to an abrupt standstill. He knew it was coming. He had been waiting for this package since he was 10, saving up the money he made through household chores and part-time jobs in anticipation.

Inside were papers that would tell him where he would spend the next two years. As he called his parents to tell them the news, his mind flashed with possibilities pertaining to where he would be going. Missionary papers are like a cruel game of global roulette; they could order you to any part of the world that they saw fit. Tate could end up a few hours away from his hometown of Mesa, Ariz., or he could be sent to the jungles of Uruguay, like his older brother, Zach.

"Oh man, I'm terrible with languages, and I've got a soft stomach," said Tate, whose brother had to eat sheep stomach soup while on his mission. "I was not about to have that."



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator

Tobin and Jill Wagstaff stand in front of their home during a press conference with their children Dallas, Rudy, Jolene and Tobia. Their home was torn down and rebuilt for ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition last month.

Sen. Kerry undergoes 2nd hip replacement

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QUIRKY COURSES

Students shape and mold for class

■ THIRTY STUDENTS ARE IN THE PROGRAM.

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
Alligator Writer

In an era of instant communication ruled by texting and e-mails, Chandra DeBuse molds her artistic message with something more permanent—clay.

DeBuse, a master's student in the UF Ceramics program, is a potter who focuses on creating functional vessels for tableware, such as mugs, cups and bowls.

She is one of 10 graduate students and one of about 30 total students in UF's Ceramics program.

Students in the program work with clay to create figure sculptures and sculptural objects.

UF ceramics professor Linda Arbuckle said one of the great things about the program is that it offers no limit to the creations students can make with clay.

"I think the idea of making

something permanent from a permeable object is pretty exciting," Arbuckle said.

Students interested in receiving a degree in ceramics have to apply to get into the program as juniors, but the UF School of Art and Art History offers an introductory level ceramics class for nonmajor students.

Arbuckle said students from a variety of majors and specializations, including architecture and pre-dental students, take the introductory course.

However, students interested in getting a degree in ceramics can use the program as a networking opportunity and a chance to meet visiting artists.

DeBuse said the ceramics program has developed a strong sense of community

When someone makes a life-size sculpture, they need help lifting it into the kiln, and their classmates are there to assist them.

"The nature of working in clay is that you are part of a community," DeBuse said.

Subway, Jamba Juice headed to Turlington

By **CAROLYN TILLO**
Alligator Staff Writer

UF students will soon be able to savor subs and smoothies alongside their stash of Turlington fliers.

A new building housing Subway and Jamba Juice will be built on the southwest corner of Turlington Hall, near where the UF Information Booth is located, wrote Lionel Dubai, the director of the UF Business Services Division, in an e-mail.

Dubay said the project's contractor has begun clearing the area where the new building will stand in preparation for construction.

The construction will be completed around May.

He said the Business Services Division and Aramark, the campus food service contractor, will pay for the project, which will cost about \$1.5 million.

"We are very optimistic that this new food service facility will provide added food service options and convenience to our students, faculty and staff," Dubai wrote.

Dubay said the UF Information

Booth, run by Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity, will remain standing and open during construction but will be demolished once the new facility is open.

A new booth connected to the building with the restaurants will replace the old UF Information Booth, Dubai said.

Dubay said demolishing the old booth will help minimize some of the congestion near Turlington Plaza, an area filled with traffic

that will keep Subway and Jamba Juice busy.

Ben Meyers, a UF sophomore and a member of the Food Service Advisory Committee that helped approve the project, said the new restaurants will be designed as more accessible eating options for students on the go.

Rather than running into the Reitz Union Food Court or the Hub and waiting in line, students can grab food on their way to class or as they step off the bus, he said.

"I think it's really in the center of campus for most undergrads, and it really serves them a lot better," Meyers said.



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STATE

Fewer migrants flock to Florida

By ANDREW NORRIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Florida is known as a destination for snowbirds, but new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau hints at a new trend.

The data shows Florida has seen a decline in the number of people who migrate to the state from other states.

In 2005, Florida had an influx of more than 250,000 domestic migrants and was considered a fast-growing state during a mid-decade population boom.

However, the state has recently been suffering losses in domestic migration, losing 9,000 Florida residents in 2008 and 31,000 in 2009 due to out-migration.

Ken Johnson, a sociology professor and a senior demographer at the University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute, published an article in which he notes the recession as a major contributing factor in Florida's migratory hang-ups.

"The slowdown means the fast-growing states aren't getting people and the slow-growing states that send migrants to places like Florida are losing less," Johnson said.

He said there are two main groups of migrants moving to Florida: older, retirement-aged migrants who are often affluent and younger migrants who have the potential to have children.

But the overall population in Florida still contin-

ues to grow, Johnson said.

He said the growth is due to migration from other countries as well as the population's natural increase rate.

Johnson's article notes that the natural increase rate, the amount of births in relation to deaths, will now play a more important part in maintaining population size.

Stan Smith, a professor in the UF economics department and director of the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, said the decline in migration resulting from the recession is in turn prolonging the economic downturn.



Smith

"Florida usually is a national leader in adding jobs but has lost more than 800,000 jobs in the past two years," Smith said. "People moving to Florida to look for jobs are leaving or just not coming in the first place."

Smith said Gainesville has been at least partially spared due to UF's presence as well as Gainesville's large medical community and amount of government jobs.

However, Smith said some people view a decline in migration and population as a positive thing.

"It puts less pressure on the environment," Smith said. "A decline means a slower increase in the need for new roads and new schools and less of a loss of green space or agricultural lands."

UF also fined for lesser offenses

POLLUTION, from page 1

Sikes said UF committed no intentional wrongdoing.

"The EPA regulations are very technical and UF had a different interpretation than the EPA of what the regulation required," she said.

ZEP Formula 768, the solution in which the tetrachloroethylene originated, was used to clean lawn equipment on a concrete slab outside a maintenance building.

Sikes said UF stopped using the solvent almost immediately upon learning that EPA had a concern.

Based on testing around the site, Sikes said UF believes the impact of the tetrachloroethylene is limited to the area around the concrete slab next to the maintenance building.

Because the EPA expressed concern solely for the groundwater and soil contamination, UF has not checked into the health of the maintenance workers who used the product.

UF was also fined for lesser offenses, such as not properly labeling containers of mineral spirits and batteries.

On Campus

Store will likely close by March

GOERINGS, from page 1

have experienced rough financial patches, they have enjoyed the backing of publishers, according to Rider.

The same backing wasn't extended to Goerings, Rider said.

"(The other bookstores) were deemed too big to fail," he said. "They got another Christmas."

The store was originally located at University Avenue and 13th Street, where it was briefly a Little Professor Book Center franchise owned and operated by Harvey and Viola Goering.

Originally, Goerings had two separate operations: one for textbooks, another for trade store operations.

However, the trade store folded due to mounting pressure from competing bookstores, and the store merged both operations into its current location behind St. Augustine's Catholic Church.

The store announced roughly six weeks ago they would not be providing textbooks for the upcoming semester.

"There are a lot of folks who preferred us because we were less expensive and

more dependable than the other bookstores," Rider said.

The store's lasting legacy, Rider said, will be the number of years the store has remained open and its ability to provide an important literary niche for the Gainesville community.

"At this point in time, Gainesville just isn't friendly to bookstores. It's disappointing."

Thomas Rider
co-owner of Goerings

"If you add up all the years that we (book-sellers and past and present staff) have worked, you're looking at 280 years of book-selling; that's a lot of experience," Rider said. "New student bodies will come and go, and fewer of them will remember us. It will take longer for the townspeople to forget us."

The store will likely close by March 1, although no official date has been set, Rider said. There are no plans to open a new store at a different location.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Denise Krigbaum, 43, and 17-month-old Clara Krigbaum browse through books in the children's section at Goerings Book Store on Monday afternoon.

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Broken part in heating system leaves campus chilly *Students are advised to wear a light jacket to class*

By **JOEY FLECHAS**
Alligator Writer

Students looking for sanctuary from the chilly weather on campus might find that some buildings are not exactly warm and cozy.

UF's primary heating system stopped working several weeks ago due to a broken part in the turbine engine that keeps

the system going, according to an e-mail sent out Monday night by Ed Poppell, UF vice president for business affairs.

The jet engine had to be shipped back to its manufacturer, General Electric Co., to be repaired.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said the unit was back on campus as of Monday and undergoing tests.

"They are hoping to have everything

up and running by Wednesday," he said.

In the meantime, the university has been using a back-up steam system that produces less heat than the jet turbine.

On Campus

Though classroom buildings, offices and dorms are chillier than usual, the heat currently being produced is going to those who need it most.

"The priority is given to the Health Science Center and Shands," Orlando said. "We make sure they get enough steam and heat, and the rest of campus comes next."

He noted that the parts of campus farthest away from UF's Progress Energy cogeneration plant will probably have the least heat.

This includes the northeast corner of campus and Orlando's office.

"My office was a little chilly today," he said.

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US security requests see mixed reactions



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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Obama administration's request for expanded surveillance powers has drawn mixed reactions from lawmakers and the public. Some support the move as a necessary step to protect national security, while others worry about civil liberties.

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said the administration's request for expanded surveillance powers is "a gross violation of the Constitution." He said the administration is "trying to get away with what it feels like it can get away with."

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Florida emergency management director resigns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida's emergency management director, John B. DeLoach, has resigned after a year in the position. DeLoach, who served as director of the Florida Department of Emergency Management, announced his resignation on Monday.

DeLoach's resignation comes as the state prepares for the possibility of another major hurricane season. He served as director since 2008, following the resignation of the previous director, John B. DeLoach.

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Welcome Back, Gators!

Dear Gators,

The holidays are past, the New Year has begun, and any glimmer of hope for cold weather has become a fleeting memory. That can only mean one thing: welcome to another spring semester at UF! While you are trying to find your classrooms and figure out just how soon your financial aid check drops, let us give you a quick introduction to SG at UF and update you on what we've been working on so far this year.

With a budget of over 14.4 million dollars, Student Government works to bring useful services like RTS campus bus routes and the SG Printing Lab. This past semester alone SG was able to expand SNAP services to compliment these already helpful safety services. We are also dedicated to making your experience at UF fun and informational; we have already brought exciting performers like Kid Cudi and Common plus influential speakers like director Brett Ratner. This semester will be no different with more events already planned! Along with the funding of activities like these we also provide the budgets for hundreds of student organizations and Rec Sports.

On campus you can find a group of students that match almost any interest you might have. So whether you are athletic, artistic, or purely academic get out there and get involved. We challenge you to make a difference on campus by becoming involved in something you believe in. With all UF has to offer, you will find giving back is one of the most rewarding investments of your college career.

If you have any questions, please contact us or visit us on the third floor of the Reitz Union. You can also visit our website.

Get involved and Go Gators!

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& Treasurer Maryam Laguna

Low temperatures put pressure on Florida farmers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — A heavy blanket of cold weather has put a squeeze on Florida farmers, with some reporting a sharp drop in crop yields. The state's agricultural sector is bracing for a winter that could be particularly challenging, as temperatures remain well below normal. Many farmers are reporting that their crops are struggling, and some are already seeing signs of frost damage. The situation is especially concerning for those who rely on a single crop, as the loss of a season's worth of produce could be devastating. Experts predict that the cold weather will continue to impact the state's agricultural industry for several weeks.



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Small text caption below the image, likely describing the person or the agricultural activity shown.

Additional text columns from the news article, continuing the discussion on the impact of low temperatures on Florida farmers.

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in 4/4, clean and ready to move-in. Includes
furnishings, utilities, wi-fi, cable and W/D. M
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1-6-09-10-1

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w/ private bath Clean, bus rte pool workout
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Rent an entire 4BR or use Free Roommate
Matching. Across the street from UF!
\$479-\$504 * All-Inclusive * Fully-Furnished
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Scholars' haven in modern, elegant house
in woods 1 mi no of UF. Share w/ 1 woman
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UNIVERSITY TERRACE CONDO
4BR/4BA with indiv leases. \$400/mo incl cab-
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Also avail summer & fall 2010. 239-250-6149
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\$522/2br in a 2-2. SHORT TERM LEASE!!!
JANUARY TO JULY 2010 AT THE ESTATES.
FULLY FURNISHED, UTILS INCLUDED!
SW 20th Avenue, APT #1026A.
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Rooms available in 4 bed 4 bath apt for
Spring move-in. Furnished or unfurnished.
Starting at \$399/ month. Cable, internet, tile
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Beautiful 3/3, close to school, dir. on bus!
Brand new appl, paint, bedding, remldd
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Rustic 1BR apt. \$375/mo.
●1BR cottage \$435/mo. Call 213-8798 or
mobile 213-3901. 4-21-09-71-2

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\$99 MOVES YOU IN!
1brs from \$539
2brs from \$599
3brs from \$750
Wtr incl.*Pet Friendly*Spacious
1 mile from UF*Shands*Downtown
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1BR/1BR \$465 * 2BR/1BA \$569
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Wood floors. With Parking. By Private Owner.
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1br \$559 / 2br \$619--\$649
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We love Pets! Call @ 376-4002
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Studios - \$465, includes electric!
Wood floors available. FREE parking.
1225 SW 1 Avenue * Pets welcome
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1's, 2's, 3's
* Inclusive Pkgs Available
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1brs from \$499 - 150 ft from UF!
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Pets Welcome! No Move-in Fees.
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FREE Rent until January 2010!!!
Pine Rush Pet Friendly No Weight Limits
1 bdr. from \$459 2bdr. from \$639
Near UF and Oaks Mall
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FREE Rent until January 2010!!!
Homestead Pet Friendly No Weight Limits
2/1 from \$629 2/2 from \$749
SW Archer Rd. Area
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1-5-09-25-2

FREE Rent until January 2010!!!
Sunrise Pet Friendly No Weight Limits
1bdr from \$469 No rent until Jan,
NO APP FEE. Near UF, Schands and VA
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2 For Rent unfurnished

WALK & BIKE TO UF
 ● 1BR/1BA \$425
 ● 2BR \$450-\$620 - W/D incl
 Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387
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1BR/1BA apt, \$499/mo. 3320 SW 23rd St. Each unit has a private gated court yard. On bus route close to Shands, VA & College of Vet Med. Pets <50lbs arranged. 352-377-2150 or paloverde3320@yahoo.com 1-6-09-44-2

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- * 2 BR from \$625
- * 3 BR from \$745

Tanning*Fitness*Tennis*Pool
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 Call us for a tour! 377-7401

4-21-09-71-2

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1 MONTH FREE! Huge floorplans.
 W/D hookup Near Oaks Mall
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1 Block to UF! GREAT LOCATIONS

1BR and 2BR Apts. See our list at
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 or call Merrill Management Inc
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3BR 1.5 BA with family Room

Tile Floors, Laundry Room,
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1BR 1BA, Grad II Apts

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 Management Inc 352-372-1494 1-5-09-22-2

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2 Blks to UF, Carpet, xtra room
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 Call Merrill Management Inc
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1BR 1BA Apt Near Sams
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2 For Rent unfurnished

● 3BR/1BA HOUSE
 819 NW 10th Ave \$850/mo
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 No pets. Call Geri 352-538-1114 1-5-09-18-2

FIRST MONTH FREE MILLRUN CONDO
 Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA
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Custom 2BR/1BA in pvt 4 Unit complx. Tiled
 flr in Liv rm, Carpet in BRs w/ceiling fans. All
 new BA. New Kit w/stainless appl, W/D, Cent
 H/A, i-net/cable avail. Mgr pays water, pest
 cntrl, lawn main, security lites. Near bus rte.
 Sorry no pets \$635/mo Call 727-423-9463
 ●Also avail: Fully furn 2BR/1BA \$735/mo.
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\$100 OFF 1st MONTH RENT. 2 BR/1.5 Bath
 Phoenix apt. 1 mile to campus and Shands
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 security, \$550/month. 2640 SW 31st Place
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WALK/BIKE TO UF/SHANDS! Campus Edge
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 Smoking. 500/mon incl. util. 250/sec dep.
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Urban loft design - fully remodeled. Very
 nice. Backyard, trees, downtown, big city
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● Large 1BR/1BA \$475/mo
 ● 1BR in 4BR/2BA house \$350/mo
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Nice 2 BR near UF, restaurants and shopping.
 Large utility room with WD Connections,
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 \$620 per month. (352)870-5815/(352)333-
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\$99 Moves-U-IN! \$299 + 75 utility package.
 Downtown Vintage room, or 34th st condo
 room w/private bath & walk-in closet. 352-
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3/1 Vintage House! \$900/month Walk to UF!
 Porch, w/d hook-ups, central AC 352-226-
 3535, 713-705-6279 517 NW 8th St 1-7-
 09-10-2

4 Bed/2 bath Vintage House \$990/month.
 Walk to UF! Univ/by Leo706. 818 SW 3rd
 Ave. Central A/C, porch, w/d, and close to
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2BR/2BA Condo

1 Mile from Campus
 Call 352-516-2545. Pets ok. 1-5-09-7-2

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Fenced in backyard, W/D hook-up, plus stor-
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2BR/1.5BA 1200 sq ft townhouse. Amazing
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2 For Rent unfurnished

DUCKPOND
 Stone cottage studio. Small but cute. Good
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 rants. Available now. \$475/mo. 306 NE 6th
 St. 379-4952 1-5-09-7-2

2BR/1BA cent heat mobile home. Shady lot.
 From \$345-\$375/mo. Incl water. No pets.
 Last month free. 4546 NW 13th St. 376-5887
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Available August 2010. Now showing
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 or call Carol 359-3341 1-5-09-6-2

Beautiful & Affordable Townhouse w/fireplace
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 Plaza, I-75 & Oaks Mall. Short leases avail.
 Great deal! Don't miss it. 352-262-2828
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Move in Special: No Security Deposit
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 available \$750 per month. Call 317-5060
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Move-In Now & Walk to UF

Dorm style \$509 * Studio \$720 * 1BR \$675
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\$600/per mo. 2 br/2 baths. Close to U.F. & on
 bus line. Amenities include clubhouse, exer-
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 new appl; includes washer/dryer in unit. Non-
 smokers only, U.F. student preferred. Call:
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Affordable, clean NW 1br on busline,
 near shops \$ UF, & dwntwn
 \$495 mo, inclds some util.
 see our webpage or call 375-7104
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Cypress point-3/2
 near Oaks Mall, hospital, & UF
 \$725 mo,
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Treehouse Village-2/2, new carpet & vinyl
 \$595 mo.
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Whispering Pines-2/2, two years new, w/d,
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Monticello-NW 3/3.5, fresh paint, w/d, walk-
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\$900 / 2br - BRAND NEW CONDO. WALK
 TO UF / SHANDS 2BR/2BA brand new
 condo unit available now. Approx 1100 sq
 ft. Campus View South Condos at 1185 SW
 9th Road. W/D/parking incl. 352-337-1760.
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2BR/2BA, kitchen, living room, loft, laun-
 dry, patio, large 6 ft fenced backyard, small
 pet allowed; excellent, clean; minutes to all
 shops & UF. \$800/mo. Call Hal at 653-281-
 7414 or 800-248-7788 1-13-10-10-2

HOUSE avail Dec 15th. 3BR/2BA, 1.5 miles
 to UF, near the Landings Apts. On UF bus
 rte. Bike to UF. Fenced backyard, fireplace,
 cent H/AC. 3627 SW 15th St. \$850/mo. Call
 327-2931 or 376-6183 1-8-10-7-2

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 2BR/1BA, Bright, clean, completely remode-
 led, Cent AC/Ht,wood flrs, DW, W/D, NS,
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2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR/1BA HOUSE
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Includes internet and utilities
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 10 min to UF. On Bus Rte. W/D, Furn Com
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 Includes internet & utilities
 From \$385 per month each.
 Please call us for the details.
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2BR/1BA w/ small study near Shands. Large
 screened room w/ W/D hook-ups. Available
 now. \$650/mo. Sec dep \$650. Pets ok 3300
 SW 23rd St. Apt #1. Call 352-371-3473 leave
 message. 1-15-10-10-2-

Townhouse 2BR/1.5BA, WD hook-up. New
 kitchen w/ private courtyard. \$700/mo, Sec
 dep \$700. Pets ok. 4007 B SW 26th Terr.
 Call 352-371-3473 leave message 1-15-
 10-10-2

2/2.5 Beacon Hill Condo. 1400sgft built
 in 2006. 1.5mi to Shands/UF. Jet tub in
 Master bath with dual sinks. Balcony in 2nd
 bedroom. pets ok. \$800/mo. 352-256-0639
 or qggator07@yahoo.com
 1-11-10-6-2

1BR/1BA apt for rent. Nice, tile floors, off
 Tower Rd. \$425/mo \$300 dep. Call 352-356-
 2563 or email snapjacksboss@yahoo.com
 Section 8 accepted. 1-5-10-2-2

Historic Pettit House in dntwn Waldo. 1 bdrm
 apt \$575.00 (1st, last & security), front & back
 porches, fenced yard. convenient to G'ville &
 Starke. Coffee cafe next door. Great for grad
 student. 378-2141 lv. msg. 1-11-10-5-2

SWEET 2/1 POOL HOUSE

Prime location, 708 NW 10th Ave. incl all
 Utils, W/D, beamed ceiling, swimming pool.
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Summer Place Pet Friendly No Weight Limits
 1bdr from \$469 No rent until Jan,
 NO APP FEE. Just off SW 34th St.
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3 Subleases

Release Spring 2010, UClub Apts.
 I'LL GIVE YOU \$350 FOR THIS APT.
 \$555/mo. all inclusive; 1 bdrm.,
 private bath; female roommate
 email: cmm616@ufl.edu 1-5-09-10-3

●●●SIGNING BONUS!●●●

Avail Jan 1st (or before) thru spring semes-
 ter. Great Deal - Great Location. 2BR/2BA in
 The Palms (originally \$1250/mo) Downtown
 Near Everything! Call 305-924-0955 1-5-
 09-5-3

3 Subleases

3 rooms Spring 2010 sublease, in 6 spacious
 bdrm house. Awesome Location! 2 min. to
 walk to campus, 5 min. walk to Sor. Row.
 FREE Designated Parking Spot, wood flrs. 2
 kitchens, front porch & fire place
 Call Ansley (772)216-5773 aplatts2@ufl.edu
 1-6-5-3

FIRST MONTH FREE

1/1 in a 4/4 in Gainesville Place \$399/mo all
 inclusive - best deal in town!
 AVAILABLE ASAP
 (727)804-4765 or smithse@ufl.edu 1-8-5-
 3

Male sublease in Biven's Cove available any-
 time January thru July. Only \$323 a month
 plus utilities, W/D, direct bus route to campus
 contact Trevor at 239.682.6351 1-11-5-3

4 Roommates**Roommate Matching HERE**

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 Greenwich Green 372-8100
 Hidden Lake 374-3866
 4-21-71-4

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1BR/1BA or 2BR/2BA avail Jan 1st.
 for responsible mature individual. \$400-
 \$800/mo OBO + utils. Brandywine on Archer
 Rd. yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566
 1-5-10-32-4

Female roommate needed, 4/2.5 townhouse,
 I-75 and Newberry, all included, gated, \$400
 baezwp@aibellsouth.net 954-557-4769
 1-19-09-30-4

Room for rent. Master bedroom w/
 private bath. 3/4 mile from stadium.
 Quiet neighborhood. Split utils. 352-281-6618
 1-5-09-9-4

Roommate wanted in Jan or Aug. 2000 sq
 ft. 2 women looking for 3rd roommate. 3BR -
 comes fully furnished, W/D, internet, TV. 3rd
 & 2nd Ave. \$600 + 1/3 utils. 561-281-9274
 1-5-09-9-4

Roommate wanted. Large 3/3 house w/
 2 grad students in NW. Close to UF, SFC,
 shopping. \$375/mo, \$200 dep. Lease til 7/31.
 Large room, low utils. Call Evan 352-428-
 0500 1-5-09-9-4

Luxury House - room, \$500 incl. utilities.
 W/D, ceramic tile, micro, etc. Looking for
 graduate/professional for nice place & likes
 small pups. Williston/SW 23rd St. 352-226-
 3535/713-705-6279 1-7-09-10-4

Roommate needed in Rockwood Villas spaci-
 ous room and private bath in a 3/3. \$400.00/
 month plus a 1/3 of the utilities 352-538-7521
 1-5-09-8-4

Grad student seeking two female roommates
 (NS/ND) to share a new 4/2 house in a quiet
 neighborhood 3 mi. W of I-75. With cable,
 internet & security alarm. 475/mo., util. incl.
 Please call 352-331-8794. Rooms are avail-
 able immediately. 1-12-12-4

Beautifully renovated, furnished
 condo, 1 mile from UF, \$399/MO
 includes cable, internet, utilities,
 pool + fitness room and on bus route,
 Female roommate needed, 352 262-2871
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Looking for one male to share 3BR/2BA
 house close to campus. Common areas fur-
 nished, W/D, new tile & carpet. \$425/mo +
 elec. 918 NW 10th Ave. Call 561-706-5378
 1-5-09-5-4

4 Roommates

Bedroom for rent in a 3/2. \$400/mo. Own bath, carport. Females only need apply. 4 Blks from stadium. Call 692-1958 for appt. 1-5-09-5-4

Roommate wanted. 1/1 in 2/2
2 Blocks North of Library West
Unfurnished BR, shared spaces furnished
Washer/dryer, dishwasher, wireless internet
\$600/mo + half util. Call/txt 813-468-1071
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3 blocks from UF Campus
1 bedroom in 3/1 house for rent
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Available ASAP please call now! 850 529
2717 or email kalon77@ufl.edu 1-5-09-5-4

2BR/2BA avail now in 4BR/4BA Country-
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nicely furn. 3rd Flr. W/D, wireless. Flo 352-
357-9656, or 352-636-4814 1-5-09-3-4

Roommate needed for 2BR Apt. close to
UF. Bus Stop Right Outside. \$300/Mo. Plus
Utilities. Call Kyle at 954-907-8538 or email
me at kylefranzone06@yahoo.com . 1-5-
09-3-4

2BRs in 4/2 house \$375 ea. (or \$700 both)
+ share util/cable/DSL + dep. Craigslist
ad: <http://gainesville.craigslist.org/roo/1495891104.html>. 352 376-9200 1-8-
10-5-4

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6 Furnishings

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Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand,
new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will
deliver. 4-21-09-71-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still
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Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must
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BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated.
Name brand, new, never been used, in plas-
tic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can
deliver. 4-21-09-71-6

CHERRY SLEIGH BED solid with Pillowtop
Mattress & Box. All new still boxed. Cost
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6 Chippendale chairs, hutch & buffet. New,
still in boxes. Retail \$5200, sacrifice \$1100.
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71-6

FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/
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DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box.
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****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
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Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop
mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with
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BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
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plush mattress \$160. All brand NEW still in
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6 Furnishings

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9 Bicycles

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97 Mercury Grand Marquis \$2900
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13 Wanted

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Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
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Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
Please call
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LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP ME LEARN TO RAKE KNIT A HAT, second and fourth wednesdays of each month. These hats are made for people in Haiti. Come and have fun with Lenora. Call 219-6948. 1-8-09-71-13

14 Help Wanted

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14 Help Wanted

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14 Help Wanted

Full time NANNY needed for Jan: M-F toddler \$10/hr; must have newborn exp grad students welcome; exp req; Noah's Ark Nanny; send resume, photo, short bio to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

NANNY ASAP for adorable 1yr old: 3 full days/ wk; 25-30hrs; \$9/hr; starts asap or Jan. Noah's Ark Nanny e-mail resume,pix, schedule to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

MWFSat NANNY NEEDED Jan 6:30am; 15hrs/wk average (days vary) 3 yr old twins + 1yr old; must be avail thru August 2010 Noah's Ark Nanny e-mail resume, pix, schedule to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

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Part-time hourly work
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HIGH-END NIGHTCLUB OPENING
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HowIGotAnA@UF
Have a 3.6 GPA & want to earn some extra cash? We are hiring notetakers & office staff for spring '10. Go to www.HowIGotAnA.com 1-8-10-6-14

Experienced Horseperson: Still looking! Need someone to live rent free in mobile home on small horse farm 12 miles from the University in exchange for 40 hours work/month. 386-462-3725 1-5-10-2-14

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Exp. Preferred
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arpetresort@aol.com 1-5-10-20-14

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14 Help Wanted

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UCB
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National Signing Day gives college football fans offseason excitement

The football season might have ended for the Gators, but my favorite time of the year is quickly approaching.

To me, the first Wednesday in February presents college football fans one of the best things to look forward to in the offseason.

On that day, your team's future starts to take shape.

This year it is on Feb. 3, and it is also known as National Signing Day.

As usual, this is supposed to be a great day for Gators fans, but with questions looming over the coaching staff and a bunch of juniors expected to leave, Urban Meyer can't afford to let any recruits get away.

The Gators have already lost the commitment of safety Matt Elam.

With two other safeties committed — Demar Dorsey and Jonathan Dowling — losing Elam is not the worst thing for the Gators.

But they can't afford to lose too many more. Not only will it hurt them in the future, but other commits will start worrying why others are jumping ship, especially with all the coaching issues.

Over the next month, Meyer has to go out and hire replacement coaches and get them visiting the players they will coach to calm any nerves.

Meyer has done a great job of recruiting positions that will soon be in high need for Florida, but he has done an even better job of getting those players a year or two earlier than needed so they don't have to jump right into playing.

The defensive backfield for the Gators will be overhauled over the next two years. Cornerback Joe Haden leaving early for the NFL and safeties Major Wright and Ahmad Black going to be seniors next year if they stay, which I think they will. What does Meyer do? He goes out and gets five defensive backs to commit this season to



Bobby Callovi
Bobby's World
bcallovi@alligator.org

replace them.

The offensive line could also be a work in progress the next two years, but Meyer took care of that last year by adding five last year.

He also has three receivers and two tight ends committed to replace a receiving corps that is mostly graduating this year.

Even though he has done a great job so far, he needs to reassure all of those players that Florida is the place for them despite the uncertainty of the program, which will not be an easy job.

And he can't just settle for the players he has already gotten commitments from. There are still some big-time prospects out there that would put this class at the top of all the recruiting sites' rankings.

The biggest two are outside linebacker Jordan Hicks and defensive end Ronald Powell.

Hicks would go a long way in 2011 when A.J. Jones and Brandon Hicks are gone, but Powell could be a recruit that could play right away.

Jermaine Cunningham is graduating and Carlos Dunlap is likely to take off for the pros, leaving Justin Trattou as the only proven defensive end.

The Gators have fallen in love with using three ends in passing situations and behind Trattou none have stepped up.

Powell is a five-star recruit from California, who is the type of player ready to play right away.

Despite needing to rest, Meyer will be hard at work again over this next month trying to secure and improve one of the top classes, but all the questions are answered on Feb. 3, making it one of my favorite days.

Cooper, Hernandez combine for 292 receiving yards

FOOTBALL, from page 1

And just coming into the game, we just were hitting and clicking, so we kept going with it and ended up obviously throwing for a lot of yards."

"You hear a lot of guys talk about dynasty around here and taking the sport to a new level, and I think we've done that."

David Nelson

UF senior wide receiver

As was the case all season, senior wide receiver Riley Cooper and junior tight end Aaron Hernandez were the primary beneficiaries of Tebow's passes.

Cooper hauled in seven passes for 181 yards in his final game as

a Gator, including a 80-yard deep ball down the left sideline, and Hernandez grabbed nine passes for 111 yards and a touchdown.

It was the first time two UF players went over the century mark in receiving yards since Andre Caldwell and Percy Harvin did it in the Gators' 49-22 win over Vanderbilt on Nov. 3, 2007.

Despite Meyer's health concerns, coaching changes and a possible lack of motivation, the senior class cemented a legacy that won't soon be forgotten by Gators fans.

"You hear a lot of guys talk about dynasty around here and taking the sport to a new level, and I think we've done that," said senior wide receiver David Nelson, who caught two passes for 37 yards. "We really didn't care who we were going to play tonight. We didn't care who was going up against us, it could've been the Dallas Cowboys."



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

UF senior wide receiver Riley Cooper runs for a touchdown on an 80-yard catch-and-run during the Gators' win over Cincinnati in the Sugar Bowl on Friday.



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Spring Sports Season Preview

Baseball

The Gators have improved each year since coach Kevin O'Sullivan took over the team in 2008.

This year, the baseball team will look to improve on last season, which ended in the NCAA Super Regional.



With most of the core returning and a freshman class many considered the top in the nation entering, Florida is primed to contend for not only a Southeastern Conference title but also a national championship.

Sophomore slugger Preston Tucker will be expected to provide the Gators with pop after his impressive freshman campaign.

A group of sophomore pitchers — Nick Maronde, Alex Panteliodis and Anthony DeScalfani — will be counted on to lead the rotation, and the return of Tommy Toledo, who missed last season because of injury, will be back to add depth at pitcher.

Gymnastics

The No. 4 UF gymnastics team gears up for another season after finishing fourth at the NCAA Championships last year.

Last season the team was decimated by injuries and only eight healthy gymnasts were available for the championship meet.

This season, the team has added five freshmen and should have everyone back from injury, including senior Amanda Castillo.

However, the Gators will be without one of the gymnasts they were most counting on. All-American Melanie Sinclair was suspended

indefinitely and is no longer on the roster because of her arrest on three felony charges.

The team travels to Norman, Okla., to launch its season against the Sooners.

Florida does have an advantage in finally winning a national championship that has been just out of arms' reach for the last few years as Gainesville is the site for the 2010 NCAA Championships.



Lacrosse

The Florida women's lacrosse team is set to begin its first NCAA season on Feb. 20 with a home matchup against the Jacksonville Dolphins.

The team, led by coach Amanda O'Leary and assistants Jennifer Ulehla and Erica LaGrow, consists of 24 freshmen, two sophomores, one junior and two seniors.



Inside Lacrosse magazine ranked the group of 24 freshmen as the No. 1 signing class and lists four of UF's players in the magazine's Top 25. The Gators will have the tasks of facing some of the top teams in the country, including five-time defending national champions Northwestern.

The newly constructed Florida Lacrosse Facility is located across from the Katie Seashole Pressly Softball Stadium on Hull Road and will be the site for home matches.

Softball

There's no question what the early season storyline is for the softball team: How will they be able to replace All-American ace Stacey Nelson?

Welcome to the Stephanie Brombacher era. The junior, who went 42-0 with a 1.10 ERA in her first two seasons, will take over for Nelson in the circle.

Finding a No. 2 to fill in Brombacher's old role will also be crucial. That job might be opt to freshman Ensley Gammel.



Returning starters Francesca Enea, Kelsey Bruder, Aja Paculba, Megan Bush and Corrie Brooks will give UF plenty of pop at the top of the lineup, but some new faces will have to step up and become everyday players if the Gators hope to make their third straight Women's College World Series.

Track and Field

Both the men's and women's track team finished in the top 10 last season, and both won the Southeastern Championship titles.

The women's team is deep at both sprint runners and long-distance runners, but its star athlete is one of its throwers.

Mariam Kevkhishvili has won the NCAA title for shot put her first three years and will look to finish her collegiate career with another.

As for the men's team, it will be led by Calvin Smith. The senior is a 13-time All-American and three-time SEC Champion. The SEC Runner of the Year was part of the NCAA Champion 4x400 team.

The men could also get a boost if Jeff Demps can recover from an injury he suffered while playing football in time to contribute to its postseason run.

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Max Weissler / Alligator Staff

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Parsons' desperation heave caps turbulent break



Ethan Hyman / AP Photo

Florida's Chandler Parsons (25) makes a 75-foot shot at the overtime buzzer to give Florida a 62-61 win over North Carolina State on Sunday in Raleigh, N.C. The Gators were 3-3 during the winter break.

By **ADAM BERRY**
Alligator Staff Writer
aberry@alligator.org

RALEIGH, N.C. — With Florida down by two points and only two seconds remaining in overtime, Chandler Parsons pulled down a rebound off a missed free throw, took one dribble and let the ball fly just before the final buzzer sounded.

Parsons said he doesn't usually take three-quarter-court shots in practice — unlike some of his teammates — but his heave found the bottom of the net, sending the Gators into a raucous celebration on the floor of the RBC Center as UF prevailed 62-61 against North Carolina State on Sunday.



Men's Basketball

"I feel like someone's about to pinch me right now, and I'm gonna wake up from a dream," Parsons said. "I've never had this feeling in my life, and I'm just glad I could step up for my team and knock it down."

UF (11-3) had a dismal shooting performance from beyond the arc against NC State (10-4), going just 3 of 24 from 3-point range, but the shots fell when they were most important.

Freshman guard Kenny Boynton hit a leaning 3-pointer with 14 seconds left to pull within two, and sophomore point guard Erving Walker drained four free throws in the final seven seconds.

The Wolfpack had plenty of chances to put the game away after jumping out to a 53-48 lead that held for nearly half of the overtime period. But they failed to connect on five free throws in overtime, including the final one by guard Farnold Degand, whose miss fell right into Parsons' hands for the last shot.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 26

Meyer needs trip to Bourbon St.

As expected, the Urban Meyer situation dominated the talk leading up to Florida's Sugar Bowl matchup against Cincinnati.

Coaches and players on both sides were constantly hit with questions like:

What did you think when you heard he'd retire?

Do you think he can change his ways and still be successful?

Are you afraid he might die?

That last one sounds pretty ridiculous, but then again, we don't really know what's up with Meyer's health. He's keeping the specifics quiet, and that leads some to run wild with speculation.

To me, he's a very successful and super-rich 45-year-old who needs to take a vacation, step back and re-evaluate the way he operates to cut down some stress.



Mike McCall

McCallin' It
Like I See It
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His daughter, Nicki, said after the Sugar Bowl that her dad just needs a break.

"We've all seen how stressed he is, and for him to be able to recover for once and do something for him-

self for one time in four years is so great for us," she said. "He deserves it. He has worked his butt off for five years, and he needs to recover and be healthy."

She added: "He's so good at what he does, and it's because he literally puts every minute of his life into that team."

All week in New Orleans, a cure was

SEE MCCALL, PAGE 27

UF RECRUITING

UF lands two commits

By **GEORGE C. PAPPAS**
Alligator Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Gators' 51-24 victory over Cincinnati in the Sugar Bowl on Friday marked the end of an era for the nation's most celebrated senior class and ushered in a period of uncertainty heading into the 2010 season.

Seven members of the defense graduated and as many as eight juniors on Florida may opt for an early start at a career in the NFL.

But UF's incoming recruiting class gave Gators fans something to look forward to with their performances at the Under Armour All-America Game on Saturday at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

The seven UF commits entering the game shined, as safeties Jonathan Dowling (Bradenton Southeast High) and Demar Dorsey (Lauderdale Lakes Boyd Anderson High) led the way.

The three-star and four-star prospects, respectively, combined for three intercep-

tions — one of which Dowling returned for a score — and declared their squad's secondary to be a "no-fly zone."

Palmdale (Calif.) High cornerback Joshua Shaw, another player committed to helping replace a Florida defensive backfield that could lose three juniors to the NFL Draft, added a pick of his own.

"The Florida secondary came up big tonight," Shaw said. "Hopefully we showed the fans that our secondary is going to be one of the best for years to come."

The good news kept coming for the Gators, as they added two more commits during the game: Staten Island (N.Y.) Curtis High defensive end Dominique Easley (the game's co-MVP) and Pahokee High receiver Chris Dunkley, ranked as the nation's No. 8 wideout by Rivals.com.

"The group of players here, the people that I am going to be with for the next four years of my life, really helped me make my decision," Easley said. "I always wanted to be a Gator and to be a part of the history."

SEE RECRUIT, PAGE 26

TEERING OFF WITH KYLE MAISTRI

■ Anyone else intrigued by the idea of Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton settling their gambling debt in an old Wild West style dual? Arenas has traded plenty of dollars over shooting contests, but none quite like this. ... I'd like to thank my boy Kellen Moore and Boise St. for locking up the picks column title for me. Oh, and Rutgers for sucking as Bobby inevitably picked them each week.

alligatorSports Picks Column

■ After finishing the regular season tied, Kyle Maistri topped Bobby Callovi by picking Boise State to cover the +7.5 spread against TCU to win alligatorSports Brand Picks Column.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: What player leaving will be the hardest for the Gators to replace?



Florida 51, Cincinnati 24



SWAMP STUDS



Tim Tebow
QB, Sr.

It had to end this way. Tebow wasn't playing in the game he had hoped for, but he turned in the most jaw-dropping performance of his career. Tebow's 533 total yards shattered the BCS record of 467 set by Texas quarterback Vince Young in 2006, a number Tebow had surpassed before the end of the third quarter. He also set a new UF record for total offense in a game. He started the game 12-for-12, and his halftime statline (20-of-23, 320 yards, three touchdowns) was better than any of his full-game outputs since the 2007 FAU game. 31-of-35 passing, 482 yds, 3 TD; 14 rush, 51 yds, TD

Cincinnati's Mardy Gilyard came into the game with most of the hype, but Cooper left the Superdome with the distinction of the game's best wideout. His statline blew up thanks to an 80-yard touchdown catch, but his most impressive work came on a 44-yard grab in the third quarter. On that catch, he reached back over Cincy defensive back Dominique Battle's shoulder to haul in the pass, then wrestled it away after Battle tried to snatch it. Cooper said he still plans to play baseball professionally, but his eye-catching night in New Orleans could cause a change in plans. 7 catches, 181 yds, 1 TD



Riley Cooper
WR, Sr.



Aaron Hernandez
TE, Jr.

It's pretty rare that a receiver puts up the numbers Hernandez did and finishes a distant second on the team, but it's hard to overlook the performance UF's tight end turned in. Hernandez was his usual self, finding open spaces in the defense, showing sure hands and bullying defenders after the catch, and it was clear that UC didn't have an answer for him. Florida fans will keep their fingers crossed that Hernandez turns down the NFL to come back for his senior year, but if he leaves, at least it's on a high note. 9 catches, 111 yds, TD

FINAL STANDINGS

T. Tebow - 21	J. Brantley - 2
R. Cooper - 7	D. Doe - 2
C. Rainey - 7	C. Dunlap - 2
J. Cunningham - 6	C. Henry - 2
A. Hernandez - 6	A. Jones - 2
J. Demps - 5	C. Sturgis - 2
R. Stamper - 5	D. Thompson - 2
J. Haden - 4	B. Hicks - 1
A. Black - 3	Ja. Jenkins - 1
B. Spikes - 3	D. Nelson - 1

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	Final
UF	9	21	14	7	51
UC	0	3	7	14	24

TOP THREE PLAYS



Chris Rainey's 6-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, when he pulled a UC defender from beyond the 3-yrd line.



Deonte Thompson's 7-yard touchdown catch in the corner of the end zone.



Riley Cooper's 80-yard touchdown before halftime.

TURNING POINT

The only turning point in this one was when the game turned from an easy win to a rout. The Bearcats got on the board with 3:11 left in the first half to cut the lead to 23-3, but just nine seconds later, Cooper turned his defender around, hauled in a perfect pass from Tebow and streaked down the sideline en route to an 80-yard touchdown that made the score 30-3. The play sucked the last ounce of hope from Cincinnati fans and gave most impartial TV viewers a reason to change the channel at halftime.

KEY STAT

533
total yards by Florida quarterback Tim Tebow

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Final Swamp Studs Standings

1



Tim Tebow
QB, Sr.

The 2009 season wasn't the coronation many expected for Tebow, but he still put together a solid year. His 67.8 completion percentage was the best of his career, and his 9.22 yards per attempt were on par with the last two seasons. He also finished with more passing yards than 2008 and the most rushing yards of his career, and he did all that with the least-threatening receiving corps he has had. Tebow and the offense weren't as potent as in years past, but the best player in UF history provided another year of big plays and excitement. 213-of-314 passing, 2,895 yds, 21 TDs, 5 INT; 217 carries, 910 yds, 14 TDs

2



Riley Cooper
WR, Sr.

The receivers took plenty of heat this season (see above), but it's hard to argue against Cooper as a top-flight wideout based on his stats. He finished with more yards than any UF receiver since Taylor Jacobs in 2002, and he succeeded as both a deep threat and possession receiver. Percy Harvin and Louis Murphy were a tough act for Cooper to follow, but the truth is, he did it pretty well. Cooper provided highlight reel catches and a memorable performance against Cincinnati, and his 2009 output was beyond what anyone could have expected when he first arrived at UF. 51 catches, 961 yds, 9 TDs

3



Chris Rainey
RB, R-So.

Surprised? So were we. Despite great seasons from Hernandez, linebacker Ryan Stamper, running back Jeff Demps and cornerback Joe Haden, Rainey snuck his way into the top three by preying on the weak. He picked up points against behemoths Troy, Mississippi State and FIU. Despite tallying less yards and a lower yards-per-carry average than last season and being the team's third-leading rusher, he still made the list. I guess it's good to be Chris Rainey. 89 carries, 575 yds, 5 TDs

Erica Ervin / Alligator Staff

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How the basketball team fared over the break

Date	Result	Top Scorer	Things to take away from game
Dec. 10, 2009	Loss to Syracuse in Tampa (73-85)	Kenny Boynton (20)	The Gators were dominated inside by Orange big man Rick Jackson, who scored 19 points.
Dec. 19, 2009	Lost to Richmond in Sunrise (53-56)	Alex Tyus (15)	Florida blew a 9-point lead heading into half-time to lose its second game of the season.
Dec. 22, 2009	Lost to South Alabama in Gainesville (66-67)	Tyus (16)	South Alabama forward DeAndre Hersey scored on a putback with 1.8 seconds left to win.
Dec. 28, 2009	Win over American in Gainesville (76-60)	Tyus (20)	The Gators ended their three-game losing streak against the overmatched Eagles.
Dec. 30, 2009	Win over Presbyterian in Gainesville (79-38)	Chandler Parsons (21)	Another one where the Gators were far superior to their competition and cruised to a victory.
Jan. 3, 2010	Win over North Carolina State in Raleigh (62-61)	Vernon Macklin (14)	Florida needed a Chandler Parsons three-quarter-court shot at the buzzer in OT to pull out a win.

Max Weissler / Alligator Staff

UF rides win streak into SEC play

HOOPS, from page 24

"We're very, very fortunate to win. It was one of those shots where there's nothing diagrammed, there's no play, there's nothing like that," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "It was just a guy who took the ball, and you talk about strange things happening. If the ball bounced anywhere except where it bounced, maybe a different guy shoots it."

With the victory, the Gators will enter their Southeastern Conference schedule on a three-game winning streak despite a disastrous start to their break.

Florida has gone 3-3 since Dec. 9, losing three straight to Syracuse (85-73 on Dec. 10

in Tampa), Richmond (56-53 on Dec. 19 in Sunrise) and at home against South Alabama (67-66 on Dec. 22). The three-game skid knocked the Gators out of the top 25, where they enjoyed a brief stay at as high as No. 10.

Despite struggling with a multitude of injuries and illnesses, UF bounced back from the tough string of losses with a 76-60 win against American and a 79-38 rout of Presbyterian, both in the O'Connell Center.

With only sophomore center Kenny Kadji still seriously injured — he has a herniated disc in his lower back — and an emotional win to cap off the break, the Gators

will move on to start their SEC schedule this weekend against Vanderbilt.

Donovan said his team needs to play defense like it did against NC State in the second half, when UF allowed only 19 points, to find success in the SEC. However, he said the Gators also can't afford to shoot like they did against the Wolfpack.

"When you start getting into the conference — I'm not trying to put pressure on our guys, but you've got to make some shots," Donovan said. "It's really, really hard for our team — for any team — when you're shooting 12 percent. There's been a lot of games where we've had these kinds of shooting performances."

Class holds steady amid turmoil

RECRUIT, from page 24

Talking to the coaching staff, everything was going to be all right."

Since UF coach Urban Meyer's initial announcement of his plans to retire, only one recruit, Matt Elam, backed out on his commitment. The remaining members of the recruiting class expressed concern for their coach but stood strong by their decisions.

"I know [Meyer] is doing that to get himself healthy," Shaw said. "Forget football, forget everything else. Your health is far more important. I am happy for him to have the guts to go out and do that, and I know that

in his heart he will go out and do what's best for him."

Shaw also commented on defensive coordinator Charlie Strong's exit from the program to take the head coaching position at Louisville, and he was not worried about losing one of the nation's best defensive coaches.

"It's all right," Shaw said. "Coach Strong is probably the greatest defensive coordinator in college football. I wish the best for him, but I also know that being at UF you are always going to get the best. There are going to be hundreds of coaches wanting to get that job, and they will get the best guy."

Verbal commitments are non-binding until a letter of intent is signed on or after Feb. 3.

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Gators continue holiday success in conference opener

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Staff Writer
etorreans@alligator.org

Freshman Jennifer George walked off the court with a smile after sinking two free throws that put her team up seven points with 2:37 left in the game.

The Gators went on to defeat Arkansas 59-53 to open Southeastern Conference play Sunday.

"I've been going to the line a lot, but I haven't been converting them," said George, who came into the game shooting 61 percent from the free-throw line. "I just told myself I was going to make it. I just told myself to have confidence and it's going to go in."

Days before Sunday's game, senior Steffi Sorensen said she talked to the freshman about the heightened intensity of a conference

game now that the Gators will only play SEC opponents until March.

"Everything is just up another level," George said. "Each possession is critical, every turnover, every basket, everything. And that's the biggest thing I realized from SEC games from non-conference games."

The first win of the new decade gave UF (8-6, 1-0 SEC) its longest winning streak of the season at three games. The Gators have gone 5-1 in their last six games since classes ended for winter break. The 75-68 loss to High Point in the confines of the O'Connell Center — the sole loss in that six-game stretch — left a bad taste in the team's mouth for the weeklong Christmas break.

To end 2009, the Gators hosted Ohio and Jacksonville and won both contests by an average of 27.5 points. It was the confidence boost the team needed before its trip to Fay-

etteville, Ark.

UF shot 75 percent (18 of 24) from the charity stripe to put away the Razorbacks (8-6, 0-1 SEC) in a game that saw five lead changes and seven ties. The Gators sank 11 of their last 15 free-throws to ice the game.



George

"When you win on the road in the SEC, it's like getting two wins. It's huge," Sorensen said. "It's a step in the right direction for us. Everyone feels good, but at the same time it's only going to get harder from here."

Coach Amanda Butler said the team talked about how everything was magnified in conference play, including free-throw shooting.

UF was unable to rely on its 3-point shooting (5 of 19) against the Hogs, except for Lon-

nika Thompson, who scored nine of her 12 points on 3-pointers. While the 3-point shooting perhaps hasn't met the team's standard, the team has been doing a better job generating a balanced offensive attack.

Center Azania Stewart has averaged 12.6 points in Florida's last five games and has shot 71 percent with a pair of career-high 18-point games in an eight-day span.

George has also been progressing as a presence on the boards, bringing in 40 rebounds in that 5-1 stretch.

Defensive rebounding was a highlight for Butler because of the ability to hold Arkansas to one-shot possessions.

"That was what I was most pleased with," Butler said. "We did a great job in the second half in particular, on the defensive boards — it was something we didn't do so well in the first half."

MCCALL, from page 24

staring him in the face.

Just six blocks from the Gators' team hotel, there's a magical place made for those in need of relaxation and unwinding.

Bourbon Street.

Ever seen that picture of Meyer with his wife Shelley, a glass of wine and a slightly buzzed look on his face?

That's the Urban Meyer that needs to be released for the next few months: Bourbon Meyer.

I'm not suggesting he go on a bender. He just needs to hand off the BlackBerry to an assistant to take care of the recruits and then skip town.

Go back to New Orleans and hit Bourbon Street, I'm sure UF will make the jet available. Check out the piano bar at Pat O'Brien's and sing karaoke at Cats Meow.

Think he's too square for karaoke? I thought I was too until I did it. He loves Jimmy Buffett, so I'd recommend "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" as

appropriate.

After a day or two of a little drinking, a lot of eating and listening to some jazz, he should head up the road to Baton Rouge with a boombox, stand outside Billy Gonzalez' bedroom window and glare Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes."

There — in a moment ripped from John Cusack in "Say Anything" — he can make things right with his former receivers coach, who left UF for LSU, and maybe win him back.

While he still has the jet, maybe

stop by Knoxville and toilet paper Lane Kiffin's house. Go to Atlanta and visit Nicki, who plays volleyball at Georgia Tech, and eat at Gladys Knight and Ron Winans' Chicken and Waffles.

Then, he needs to spend a week or two at a remote beach resort, somewhere without access to a phone.

He has a good system in place at UF, and it should be able to carry on without him for a little while. Then, after his assistants get used to bearing a little more of the load,

things will run more smoothly for Meyer upon his return.

This all boils down to needing a break from the daily grind and the pressures of being Florida's football coach, and if Meyer hangs around Gainesville, I can't imagine how he'd accomplish that.

If he's in town, he won't be far from the football offices or spring practice when that starts up. And if that's the case, it's hard to believe he'd stay away, especially after he said his gut feeling is that he'll be on the sidelines by August.

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Gators face uncertainties heading into offseason

By **KYLE MAISTRI**
Alligator Staff Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

NEW ORLEANS — Florida said goodbye to the winningest class in school history, the greatest player in school history and its defensive coordinator with a 51-24 win against Cincinnati in the Sugar Bowl.

With Tim Tebow, Brandon Spikes, Charlie Strong and others on their way out the door, a lot of uncertainty surrounds the future of UF's program.

Coach Urban Meyer will take a leave of absence and hand the reins over — temporarily — to offensive coordinator Steve Addazio, whose only head coaching experience came at Cheshire (Conn.) High School.



Football

"I feel a great obligation and an honor to be able to hold this thing together for coach until he gets back here," Addazio said. "If we can give him this piece of stability, that he knows this program is in good shape and good hands and going well, then that's what we're gonna do. That's what we owe him."

Meyer said again after the game he feels he will be back in the fall for the start of the 2010 season to coach a brand new football team.

John Brantley will take over for Tebow at quarterback, but that may be the only certain thing about next season.

The defense loses starters Spikes,

linebacker Ryan Stamper and end Jermaine Cunningham, and that's if every junior decides to come back

next year.

Cornerback Joe Haden has already announced he will forgo his

senior season, and end Carlos Dunlap is expected to be a first-round pick if he declares for the NFL Draft.

Safeties Ahmad Black and Major Wright have also submitted their papers to the advisory committee.

"I'll talk to my coaches and if they think I'm ready, then I'll go," said Dunlap, who recorded two sacks against the Bearcats.

All of those departures leave one of the best defenses in the country in a transition period for next season.

Spikes said he thinks freshman Jon Bostic will take over his middle linebacker position, depending on who stays and the type of defense UF will run with a new coordinator.

"Those younger players, they know what we started, the legacy we have here, and they just want to keep it going," Spikes said.

On offense, wide receivers David Nelson and Riley Cooper played their last games as Gators, and a few third-year players — offensive linemen Carl Johnson, Marcus Gilbert and Mike and Maurkice Pouncey, tight end Aaron Hernandez and running back Chris Rainey — still have NFL decisions to make.

"You hear a lot of guys around here talk about dynasty and taking the sport to a new level, and I think we've done that," Nelson said.

Now, the challenge will be staying on top with a different nucleus of players, some of which have yet to sign with UF.

"I'm going to do everything I can to keep this train going in the right direction," Meyer said when asked if he plans to recruit over the next month. "That all will be discussed in the next few days."



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF offensive coordinator Steve Addazio will take over as interim head coach until Urban Meyer returns from his leave of absence. Addazio's only previous head coaching experience was at a high school.

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