

Sophomore guard
 Scottie Wilbekin said
 he is comfortable with
 contributing off
 the bench in
 UF's backcourt.
 See story, page 17



More employers recruit at Spring Career Showcase



Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Students wait in line to talk to a representative from Ryder Logistics and Transportation Solutions Worldwide at the Career Showcase in the O'Connell Center on Tuesday afternoon.

▶ ABOUT 230 COMPANIES
 ARE PARTICIPATING.

CHRIS BURG

Alligator Contributing Writer

The biannual flocking of business suits and pencil skirts to the Spring Career Showcase on Tuesday was larger than usual, but it wasn't job-seeking UF students and alumni who made the difference.

The showcase featured a 15 percent increase in employer participation from last spring, according to a Career Resource Center official.

UF students and alumni spoke to representatives from 226 companies at the O'Connell Center on Tuesday for the first half of the two-day Spring Career Showcase, said Elaine Dorsey, assistant director of employee relations at the CRC.

The CRC hosts a showcase each semester to bring potential employers to the school. Students in non-scientific majors attend the first day of the showcase, and students with

science-related majors attend the second day.

More than 6,000 students and alumni attended both days of the fall showcase, said CRC Director Heather White. She expects the same number this year.

"There has been a consistent increase in the number of hires since the first quarter of last year."

Elaine Dorsey

CRC assistant director of employee relations

Dorsey said she believes the increased involvement may be the byproduct of companies failing to meet their hiring quotas for 2012.

"We had a lot of people who registered toward the end of the showcase deadline," she said. "It appears they have a strong forecast with their hiring plans."

George Rogers, a Farmers Insurance representative who attended the showcase, confirmed this trend.

"We've had open spots
SEE SHOWCASE, PAGE 5

About 200 turned away at gyms due to computer issue

JOY KING

Alligator Contributing Writer

Some students have trouble keeping their New Year's fitness resolutions. Others, however, are running into difficulties before they even reach the treadmills.

Issues arose between the computer systems for RecSports and the registrar's office, which caused about 200 students to be incorrectly listed as ineligible for membership.

Pamela Hightower, coordinator for technology, assessment and membership services for UF RecSports, said data from the registrar's office determines gym membership eligibility.

She said students might have had trouble if they were not registered as full-time students or had not paid tuition, among other reasons.

When 20-year-old pre-nursing sophomore Barbara Cadet scanned her hand at the

Student Recreation Center, a flashing screen directed her to the registration desk.

"When I went to the desk, they asked me if I was taking any classes, and I told them I was a full-time student," Cadet said. Gym employees let her in, she said, but they told her to visit Southwest Rec's offices.



Hightower

An employee told her the computer system may not have processed her drop/add schedule changes, instead listing her as a part-time student.

Hightower said RecSports has fixed membership problems for 210 students so far.

Associate University Registrar Mary Ann Hagler said the office did not have a history of difficulties. She said she was unaware of the issues.

SNAP adds more stops to Sorority Row for safety

NICOLE CUCCARO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Following recent attacks in the Sorority Row area, University Police added new stops to the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol route.

The changes to SNAP, which went into effect at the beginning of spring semester, were made in response to a Q&A session between UPD and Panhellenic Council members in December. Sorority women said they were concerned there weren't enough SNAP stops on Sorority Row and no stops for off-campus sorority houses, said UPD Sgt. Kristy Maculan.

SNAP stops were added in front

of every sorority house, including the three off-campus houses. Stops were also added at Oakbrook Walk and The Continuum because they are considered student housing. However, Oakbrook Walk's SNAP stop is temporary, Maculan said.

"The intent and hope with these changes is that sorority house residents will feel safer," she said.

Business sophomore Nicole Ronzon, 19, lives on Sorority Row.

After the attacks, she said she doesn't feel safe running after dark.

"I feel as though these new stops should have been a part of SNAP's route even before the recent attacks occurred," she said.

Today

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Editorial Board endorses Ron Paul in presidential primary

Texas congressman is the best choice for students, pg 6.

Zebra dung may help in development of biofuel

A bacterium in the waste may make biofuel cheaper, pg 8.



Lowe talks jobs, quality of life in address

The Gainesville mayor delivered the State of the City speech Tuesday afternoon, pg. 4.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Puppy Hill Fundraiser at The Gelato Company

Today, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
The Gelato Company
Fundraiser benefiting Puppy Hill Farm Animal Rescue, a no-kill shelter in Gainesville. Say "Puppy Hill" at the register. There will be puppies.

Radical About Christ Bible Study

Today, 5 p.m.
Little Hall, Room 201
Radical About Christ is a new organization that seeks to promote awareness about Christianity through community service, Bible discussions, workshops and programs.

Krav Maga

Today, 6 p.m.
UF Hillel, 2020 W University Ave.
Join a certified Krav Maga instructor for a high-energy, cardiovascular workout while learning the skills of self defense.

Golden Key's First General Body Meeting

Today, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Turlington, Room L011
Come to Golden Key's first meeting to learn about events and opportunities this semester. There will be free pizza, soda, a guest speaker, a presentation from the Princeton Review and a fundraiser at the Gelato Company directly after the meeting.

The Maya Mystery of 2012: End of Time or Endless Time?

Today, 8 p.m.
Reitz Union, Rion Ballroom
For 2012: The Final Year Theme Week, RUB Entertainment presents Susan Milbrath, curator of Latin American Art and Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History and author of "Star Gods of the Maya: Astronomy in Art, Folklore, and Calendars." She will unravel the mystery surrounding the Maya calendar and its end date of Dec. 21. Learn what the Mayans really had to say about this date and how it relates to their sophisticated integration of the calendar with astronomy. This event is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other events, become a fan of RUB Entertainment on Facebook.

City of Gainesville's Arbor Day Celebration

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thomas Center, 302 NE Sixth Ave.
The City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the City Beautification Board and the Thomas Center Associates present a free celebration of Arbor Day. There will be a tour of the Thomas Center Gardens from 11:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. From noon to 1 p.m., Gainesville will celebrate its 28th year as a

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 81/55	PARTLY CLOUDY 83/60	THUNDER STORMS 73/46	PARTLY CLOUDY 74/45	SUNNY 68/38

Tree City USA by planting 56 magnolia trees at the Thomas Center. Music and refreshments will be provided at the celebration. For more information, visit cbb.cityofgainesville.org.

The Closet Monologues with Scott Fried

Thursday, 8 p.m.
UF Hillel, 2020 W University Ave.

Scott Fried, international public speaker, HIV/AIDS educator and author, will discuss many of the challenges and responsibilities facing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. The program deals with how societal shame can transform into internalized self-hatred and thereby cause a multiplicity of risk behaviors. Program discussions also include disclosure issues and what it really means to be "in the closet" or "out." This event is co-sponsored by UF Hillel, SG LGBTQ Student Affairs Cabinet, LGBT Affairs and Pride Student Union

The Marvin Harris 2012 Lecture

Friday, 4 p.m.
Turlington, Room L011
The lecture, entitled "The Juridical Hospital: Claiming the Right to Health in Brazilian Courts," is organized by the Department of Anthropology in collaboration with the Center for Latin American Studies. Featured speaker will be João Biehl of Princeton University, professor of anthropology and co-director of the Program in Global Health and Health Policy.

Oneg with Scott Fried

Friday, 7:30 p.m.
UF Hillel, 202 W. University Ave.
Join UF Hillel for Reform, Conservative or Traditional Shabbat services, followed by a free Kosher dinner. Following Shabbat there will be a free Oneg with Scott Fried, international public speaker, HIV/AIDS educator and author.

Theatre Strike Force @ GatorNights

Friday, 9 p.m.
Orange & Brew
Come for the smiling faces, stay for the improv comedy. It'll be a show of laughter to warm you on these long, January nights.

Havdallah and Honduras Service Trip

Saturday, 6:30 p.m.
UF Hillel, 2020 W University Ave.
Find out how to get on

an amazing service trip to Honduras this summer with Scott Fried, international public speaker, HIV/AIDS educator and author, and the UF Hillel. The trip will consist of building a house for a family with HIV/AIDS and time to scuba dive in what is considered to be the world's second best diving location. All students who go on this trip will have an opportunity to get certified before the trip.

BBQ with Scott Fried

Sunday, 1 p.m.
UF Hillel, 2020 W University Ave.

Scott Fried, international public speaker, HIV/AIDS educator and author, will share his story about how he started the AIDS support group which the musical RENT is based on and enjoy some free BBQ.

Help Heal Haiti Benefit Concert

Sunday, 7 p.m.
2925 NW 39th Ave.
First Assembly of God and Projects for Haiti will be hosting the benefit concert. All proceeds from this event will benefit the March 2012 mission trips. There is an \$8 suggested donation and refreshments will be available. There will be performances by local artists: Jon Lash, Benji Kuriakose of "Built to Be Broken," Ryan Galloway, David Pegg and more.

Impact Autism @ UF General Meeting

Monday, 4:00 p.m.
Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy Building, Room 1101
Join Impact Autism for its final general meeting of the new year. Come and see how you can get involved this semester and learn what the club has planned. Check out the Facebook group "Impact Autism @ UF" for more information.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to emorrow@alligator.org. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

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If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email editor@alligator.org.

the independent florida
alligator

VOLUME 106 ISSUE 86

ISSN 0889-2423

Not officially associated with the University of Florida
Published by Campus Communications Inc., of Gainesville, Florida
NEWSROOM

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The Independent Florida Alligator is a student newspaper serving the University of Florida, published by a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization, Campus Communications Inc., P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, Florida, 32604-2257. The Alligator is published Monday through Friday mornings, except during holidays and exam periods. During UF summer academic terms The Alligator is published Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Alligator is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newspapers.

Subscription Rates: **One Semester (Fall or Spring)** \$18
Summer Semester \$10
Two Semesters (Fall or Spring) \$35
Full Year (All Semesters) \$40

The Alligator offices are located at 1105 W. University Ave. Classified advertising can be placed at that location from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Classifieds also can be placed at the UF Bookstore. © Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. No portion of The Alligator may be reproduced in any means without the written consent of an officer of Campus Communications Inc.

Civil Debate Wall debuts on campus

► STUDENTS CAN DEBATE THEIR OPINIONS ON TOUCH-SCREEN PANELS IN PUGH HALL.

JULIA GLUM
Alligator Writer

UF students can get technical and technological with their opinions at the launch of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service's Civil Debate Wall tonight.

The Wall Launch Party will be at Pugh Hall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. All students are invited.

Five 46-by-26-inch touch-screen panels comprise the Civil Debate Wall, which displays a question each week about public policy.

This week's question is "Should children of undocumented immigrants be able to attend public schools?"

Students visiting the wall can answer with "yes" or "no," and then defend their opinions in a 140-char-

acter statement.

Participants can debate with others and track responses to their posts via email or text message. The center's policy council partnered with AdWerks, UF Ad Society's student-run advertising agency, to make the launch party specifically geared toward students, said Shelby Taylor, a spokeswoman for the center.

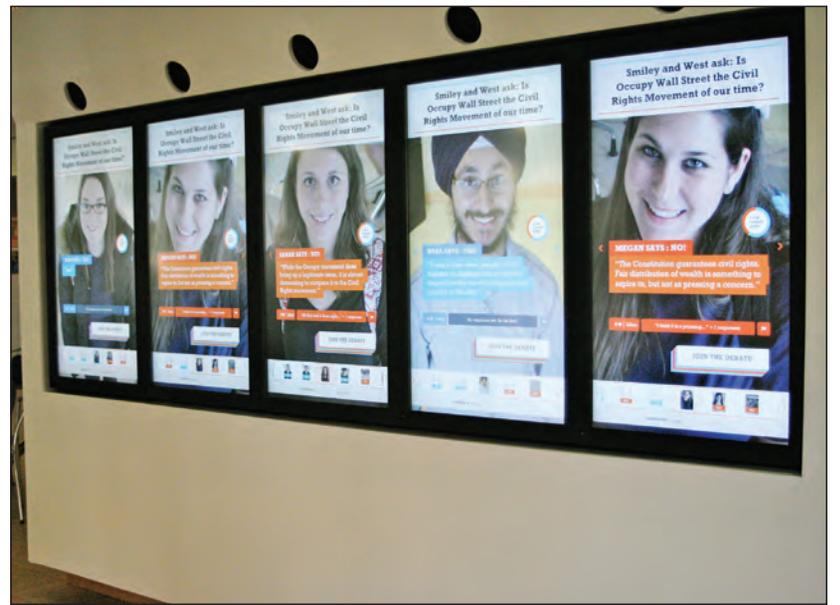
"We wanted to see if there was a way in which we could leverage digital technology with social media ..."

Shelby Taylor

Center for Public Service spokeswoman

Civildebatewall.com shows about 300 registered users, Taylor said. About 180 students responded to last week's question.

"We wanted to see if there was a way in which we could leverage digital technology with social media to get students talking about something more than simply just a status update," Taylor said.



Lauren Adamson / Alligator

Students voice their opinions interactively on the Bob Graham Center for Public Service's Civil Debate Wall in Pugh Hall.

Gators-themed buses started running on campus Monday

The buses are running on routes 43, 35 and 28

AYANA STEWART
Alligator Contributing Writer

Three Gators-themed buses hit the streets Monday.

UF partnered with Gainesville's Regional Transit System to bring the buses to Gainesville, said Chip Skinner, spokesman for RTS. The buses arrived in Gainesville from California in December but could not run until license plate tags were available.

The buses are fitted with a vinyl Gators-print wrap and



Skinner

the slogan "The Gator Nation is Everywhere."

They took about a year to make, he said.

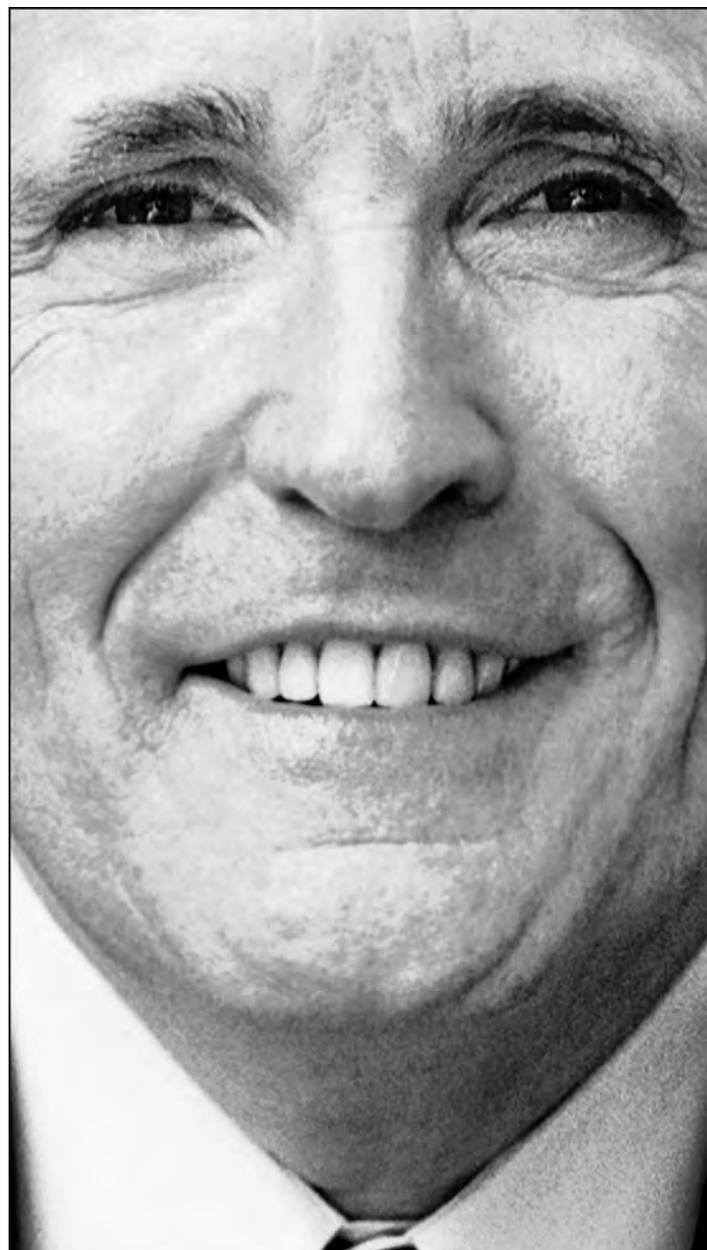
Skinner said campus development funds, which are provided by the Florida legislature and allow state-run universities to develop transportation and other infrastructure. Skinner estimates that

each bus cost UF \$415,000.

The three buses are currently running on routes 43, 35 and 28.

Skinner said the spirited buses were proposed and designed to highlight RTS's partnership with UF. Revenue from UF and Santa Fe College will account for more than half of the RTS operating budget in the 2012-13 fiscal year, according to a news release.

"We worked in conjunction with UF to get the design approved and then get them on the buses once they were," Skinner said. "Since we do get a lot of advertising and bus wraps out on the road, we start thinking of ways that we can make the buses stand out more to the public."



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LOCAL Miss Cheerwine competition looking for southern woman

CHRIS ALCANTARA
Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF woman could be the next face of Cheerwine.

The second annual Miss Cheerwine contest is open to Florida women ages 21 to 25. This is the first year Florida residents can enter the contest, because Cheerwine expanded distribution into Florida in October.

"It's a great opportunity for young women to have the experience of a lifetime by exploring the South and connecting with a variety of Cheerwine fans," said Shani Malloy, a 25-year-old senior account coordinator of The Thomas Collective firm, which represents Cheerwine.

The winner of this year's Miss Cheerwine contest will also promote Cheerwine throughout the U.S. Malloy said the company's goal is to make the brand available in all 50 states by the company's 100th anniversary in 2017.

Participants living in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia are eligible to apply for the contest through Cheerwine's Facebook page until March 5. The contest started Jan. 17.

Due to the popularity of last year's Miss Cheerwine contest, Cheerwine will let fans decide the winner, Malloy said.

Fans will vote on three finalists chosen by the company starting April 2. A winner

will be announced through Cheerwine's Facebook page around April 28, Malloy said.

Cheerwine was created in 1917 by general store owner L. D. Peeler in Salisbury, N.C.

"It's a pretty tasty drink. It's cherry-flavored, but it doesn't taste like medicine."

Julie Rothe
UF freshman

The drink was introduced to Florida for the first time in October.

Victoria Colson, a 21-year-old public relations junior, said she is a fan of Cheerwine, but she does not plan to participate in the contest.

"I think it's a good idea," she said. "I don't think I would [participate] because I have a bunch of internships going on."

Julie Rothe, an 18-year-old information systems freshman, said she has liked Cheerwine for about two months.

"It's a pretty tasty drink," she said. "It's cherry-flavored, but it doesn't taste like medicine. Plus, I like being able to drink out of the glass bottle."

Aside from not being a Florida resident or of age, Rothe said she would be interested in participating in the contest.

"That would be awesome to travel around the South and meet new people," she said. "Being called 'Miss Cheerwine' would be amazing."

Gainesville Mayor talks jobs, quality of life in State of the City address



Erik Knudsen / Alligator

Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe speaks at the State of the City address on Tuesday afternoon at the Hippodrome State Theatre.

BENJAMIN S. BRASCH
Alligator Writer

In the annual State of the City address, Mayor Craig Lowe discussed ways to increase Gainesville's job base and strengthen the downtown area to bolster the city's quality of life.

Lowe spoke to a crowd of about 70 people about what the city has done in the past year and his plans for the upcoming year.

A high quality of living and a diverse population are Gainesville's greatest advantages, Lowe said.

"A dedication to progress defines our city," he said.

The city plans to keep developing Downtown, he said.

"The state of Gainesville's economy is strong and growing," Lowe said. "I believe Gainesville already has the tools for economic growth."

In 2012, Gainesville will see the holistic view of Innovation Square come to life, he said.

"We are continuing to see a renaissance in the heart of our city," Lowe said.

A new, innovative bus system that is in the works is an integral part of the transportation changes happening in the city, Lowe said.

Earlier this year, Gainesville was named the city with the shortest commute time in Florida and 19th best commute time in the country, Lowe said, citing data analyzed by the Orlando Business Journal and collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

On Oct. 18, the U.S. Department of Transportation granted Gainesville's Regional Transit System \$9 million, he said.

Increased transportation will help people experience the culture of downtown Gainesville, Lowe said.

"We must do our best to maintain our identity and keep our commitment," he said.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Longtime Student Senate assistant retires

SAMANTHA SHAVELL
Alligator Writer

Tuesday's Student Senate meeting recognized the work of Glenda Frederick, the Senate Program Assistant who is retiring after about 20 years with Student Government.

"It's a sad day for us, but a happy day for Glenda," said former Student Body President Ben Meyers.

The meeting room in the Reitz Union was filled with current senators and several former SG Student Body presidents and Senate presidents there to say goodbye.

"SG will suffer with [her] absence," said former Student Senate President and 2001-2002 Student Body President Marc Adler.

Audrey Goldman, former Senate president in 2009, said she will always remember Frederick's rule to "be nice to everyone."

Senate President Andrew Mason thanked Frederick for being a resource, a role model and a friend for more than 25 years.

"I will think about you. I will miss you. I may even come back and visit you," Frederick said. "But I promise I will never forget a minute of it."

During the meeting, the Senate also unanimously passed a clause that was mistakenly taken out during the summer, said Sen. Christina Bonarrigo after the meeting.

The clause states that during fall and summer terms, three unexcused or four combined unexcused and excused absences from the Senate will constitute resignation. The clause will be reinstated if it passes final approval at the next meeting.

An increase to the number of UF Su-

preme Court justices was unanimously given final approval.

This amendment increases the number of justices in the Supreme Court from four

to six, excluding the Chief Justice. Now five members are needed to make a decision, and four of the members need to agree in order to make a decision.



Emily Doyle / Alligator

Sen. Monya Sharp gives Senate Program Assistant Glenda Frederick a farewell hug at Tuesday's Student Senate meeting.

Local shipping center to bring about 20 jobs

SHOWCASE, from page 1

since we were here in the fall," Rogers said. "There has been a consistent increase in the number of hires since the first quarter of last year."

The expanded participation has led to other job and internship opportunities for students and alumni.

"There were a lot more high-end employers as opposed to last year."

Paul Polito
UF junior

Shipping company R+L Carriers, in its first appearance at the showcase, announced plans to develop an information technology center on University Avenue. The center will bring about 20 full-time jobs and internships, according to R+L Carriers representative Brice Carpenter.

Paul Polito, a 21-year-old finance junior, said he felt more confident about receiving a call back from a potential employer than he did at the last spring showcase.

"There were a lot more high-end employers as opposed to last year," Polito said. "I would give my odds a fair chance."

SIGN ON TO ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!



SPRING SPORTS SECTIONS

Issue Date	Sports Coverage
Fri. 2/3	Men's Basketball vs. Vanderbilt
Fri. 2/10	Softball Preview (Wrap) Men's Basketball vs. Tennessee Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee
Fri. 2/17	Baseball Preview (Wrap)
Fri. 3/2	Men's Basketball vs. Kentucky
Wed. 3/14*	Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament (Wrap) *if invited to NCAA tournament
Fri. 3/16	Softball, Baseball, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Women's Golf
Fri. 4/6	Orange & Blue Game (Wrap) Pepsi Florida Relays (Track & Field)
Fri. 4/13	Softball, Lacrosse, Men's Tennis
Fri. 4/20	Softball, Baseball

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Editorial

We Pick Paul

Editorial Board endorses
Texas congressman

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, voters will flock to the polls to distribute Florida's 50 delegates among the four contenders left in the Republican presidential primary. If you plan to vote in the primary, the Editorial Board of the Alligator encourages you to place your vote for Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas.

Paul is an unconventional candidate who does not fit the standard Republican mold — and that's why we like him. Unlike his 2008 bid for the White House, his campaign has been on the offensive. Rather than going after his competitors over non-issues like extramarital affairs, he has been attacking the other candidates for their inconsistency and lack of commitment to serious ideas.

Paul puts winning the nomination second to the proliferation of his ideas — ideas that would never even have been discussed by the media four years ago. Who would ever think that a top contender for the White House would be talking about ending the Federal Reserve or the war on drugs?

His ideas are why we believe he is an attractive candidate to college students of all political persuasions. Unlike the other Republican candidates, Paul believes in a non-interventionist foreign policy. It was surprising to see him booed the other night in the South Carolina debate when he said we should take a "Golden Rule" approach to our foreign affairs.

It's not anti-American, as other candidates have claimed, to evaluate our foreign policy and its influence on the way people behave in the Middle East. Looking at cause and effect and critical thinking should be appreciated by anyone pursuing a college degree.

Paul is the only candidate for president, including President Barack Obama, who has questioned the effectiveness of the war on drugs. While some have painted Paul as an advocate for drug use, his opposition comes from two main factors. First, he believes the government does not have the right to tell us what we can and cannot put into our own bodies. Second, he believes drug prohibition has perpetuated the spread of drugs and the crime associated with it, similar to the prohibition of the 1920s. It is not "soft on crime" to look at the causes of many criminal actions.

Finally, for college students who have grown up in the post-9/11 era, Paul is the only candidate concerned about the growing infringement of our civil liberties. Even President Obama recently signed the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill that could lead to the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens. He also signed an extension of the Patriot Act.

You may not agree with Ron Paul on many issues, but for college-aged voters in the Florida Republican primary, Paul should be your choice.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you participating in this semester's Career Showcase?

Tuesday's question: Is your rent going up next year? **51% YES**
49% NO
41 TOTAL VOTES

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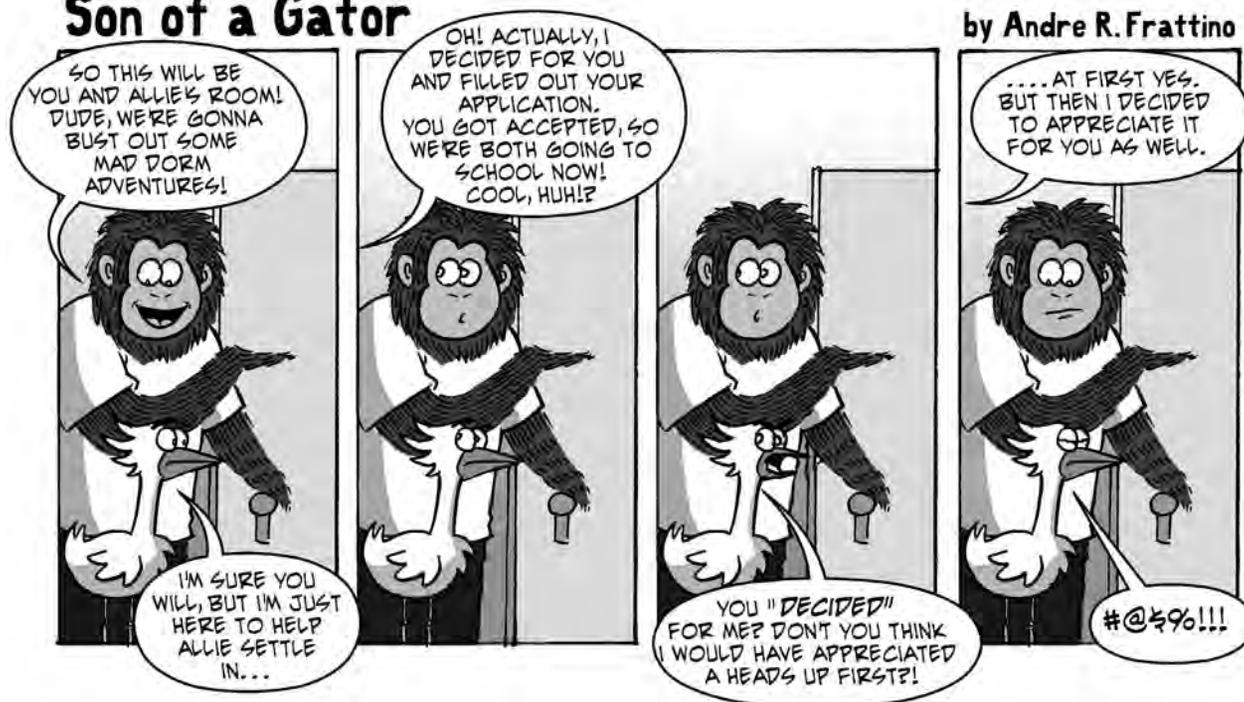
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Column

Ignoring campus preachers will stop hate

As you emerge from a lecture in Turlington Hall, you are met by a religious fanatic spewing hate — a spectacle that is fundamentally opposite to the intellectualism and philosophy of academia. The crowd is budding and you're left with two options: stop and gawk at a miserable person attempting to spread ignorance and intolerance, or continue walking. The former option is tempting in the same way visiting a circus might be; satisfying a primal interest to view a spectacle. But every second you spend watching the pontificator is just another second encouraging his or her behavior.

The past couple years have brought many breeds of religious fanatics to Gainesville, some flaunting "Islam is of the devil" shirts and others shrieking that you, a college student trying to maneuver through crowds to your next class, will spend eternity in hell unless you accept the beliefs they were most likely born into. These people, collectively referred to as the "Turlington preachers," are not a phenomenon exclusive to UF. Campus preachers are found ubiquitously at American universities. They survive on one thing: attention.

If you give campus preachers your attention, you acknowledge that they use an effective means of communication. If you stop to listen, you acknowledge that it is worthwhile for them to bring misinformation and intolerance to our campus. In essence, listening to campus preachers encourages them to continue with their absurd behavior. But we do not want to encourage that absurd behavior in our society, much less in an educational institution.

For the benefit of yourself and our university, you should not engage in a one-liner, public debate with campus preachers. You can't win.

They win the moment you stop, long before you open your mouth. You also certainly should not say a mean-spirited comment in passing. Why add more hate to their lives? The only reasonable course of action is to ignore



Abdul Zalikha
opinions@alligator.org

them entirely. Ignoring campus preachers sends a message that prideful ignorance is not tolerated in an intellectual institution, and if they are perpetually ignored, they will eventually stop fear- and hate-mongering.

But the act of ignoring must be unremitting and almost forced. It is easy to stop and gawk at yelling ignoramuses, but the moment you stop and gawk, they have already achieved their goal. If the collective Student Body utterly ignores them, campus preachers will learn that hateful, over-the-top conduct is not an effective way to communicate, and they will be left with two options: change their behavior or fade into oblivion.

Being keen, educated Gainesville residents, we know the most important step toward wisdom is the perpetual consideration of ideas in conflict with your own. Clearly, I don't advocate shunning a belief simply because it is extreme. We all have ideas that someone somewhere would consider extreme. Private discussion with campus preachers is fine, but the anti-intellectual disputes that occur on campus are not. Attempting to have an open-minded discussion in private with campus preachers will probably be futile, but you might just learn something like what type of life can lead someone to such hatefulness or how you should not raise your kids.

But when they are on campus misinterpreting scientific theories or pontificating about ideas founded on ignorance and hate, you should not acknowledge campus preachers. If the Student Body can do this, we can take a little bit of hate out of our campus. So for the benefit of yourself and our university, the next time you see a campus preacher, just keep walking.

Abdul Zalikha is a biology and English junior at UF. His column appears on Wednesdays.

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

Column

Shire from Lord of the Rings an ideal economic model

For those who have read or watched the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, it can be easy to desire the sort of world J.R.R. Tolkien portrayed. The Shire, an idealistic agrarian community on the western edge of Middle Earth, appears to be a world of social and economic bliss. There, hobbits peacefully engage in their day-to-day business: growing crops, selling simple goods and ending a hard day's work with a pint of ale at The Green Dragon. It is enough to make one nostalgic for a world that never truly existed, and it prompts the question: Is this sort of realm possible?

As it turns out, many economists and philosophers have asked the same question. As silly as it sounds, the model of the Shire has been a foundational building block for the niche economic theory of distributism. For those who are suspicious of both socialism and laissez-faire capitalism, distributism is often presented as a "third way." The basic principle of distributism is simple: The means of production should be dispersed as widely as possible among individuals, rather than belonging to a government (as it is in communism or socialism) or by a few corporations (as in most capitalist systems).

Thus farms, shops and the like are owned by families and groups of friends rather than by gargantuan entities. It certainly sounds like a paradigm with which Bilbo and Frodo would



Luke Bailey
opinions@alligator.org

be familiar. For the cynics among us, this sounds like a dubious proposition. This system may work well for an agrarian community, but certainly not on a wide scale. A small unit of localized compatriots surely could not construct an airplane factory, build a skyscraper or manufacture iPhones as corporations can.

However, if we truly are so enamored with living in a mechanized, centralized and mass-produced world, why do our hearts long for the Shire and its beautiful simplicity? That is the question modern distributists wish to arouse. Have we, like the dwarfs of Moria, dug too greedily and too deeply? On the surface, the beloved "progress" of the modern age has provided us with great bounties. Massive corporations supply us with the cheap products we so desire, and a bloated government offers us unlimited safety (as long as it retains the ability to borrow money from future generations).

However, more and more, we find ourselves separated from local communities. We live off food harvested around the globe and cling to shallow friendships across vast social networks. Would the hobbits of Middle Earth truly recognize this as "real

life"? More to the point, would our ancestors? They lived in a world governed by daily interaction among a fellowship of crucial economic actors, every person an integral cog in the local economy. These relationships were far more meaningful than a collection of profiles on a Facebook page that serve only to inflate individual narcissism.

Alas, we have long since passed the point where distributism could be viable economically.

The modern age has seen to that. The political and economic paradigm has become one of capitalism versus socialism with no room for the poor hobbits in between. Yet, as Tolkien himself wrote, "Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens." The basic tenants of distributism can still resound in all of us. Liberals of the green movement can fully embrace the principles of localism, and conservatives can sympathize with the traditional society such an economic system implies.

The famous conservative thinker G.K. Chesterton, one of the founding fathers of distributism, loved to repeat the famous rallying cry, "three acres and a cow." At the risk of sounding like a backwards traditionalist, if that was good enough for the hobbits of the Shire, it's good enough for me.

Luke Bailey is a history junior at UF. His column appears on Wednesdays.

Guest column

Congress should pay more attention to needs of college students

Another semester has come, and with it, more tuition for students to stress over. According to the College Board, if a student enrolled in 2010, he or she can expect to pay \$33,300 for a four-year public university — a 7.9 percent increase in the last decade. In fact, college costs have steadily risen faster than inflation for years, meaning every semester students (and their parents) are spending a larger percentage of their salaries on education, leading to an average student-loan debt of \$20,000 by graduation.

Considering a quarter of those students will pay even more including late fees, it's not surprising that 7.2 percent of students drop out of college due to financial pressure. That means more than a million people end their pursuit of higher education every year because university tuition is out of control. Those are millions of doctors, lawyers and

corporate executives this country loses.

It's not just the possibility of losing some great minds, but also the social mobility that higher education brings. Studies have consistently shown a college degree results in a higher salary and with it, a higher standing in society. But with tuition becoming so expensive and more lower-middle-class students postponing their degrees indefinitely, social mobility becomes less and less likely. In fact, a 2010 report issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development showed that in the United States, parental background has the highest influence on student achievement out of all OECD countries.

Western Europe, where heavily funded universities dominate, is where social mobility seems to be most prevalent. The estimated tuition cost at UF for the fall of 2011 was \$5,657. When you account for books, supplies

Cody Futch Speaking Out

and health insurance, that cost easily increases by about \$2,000. However, in Sweden, schools

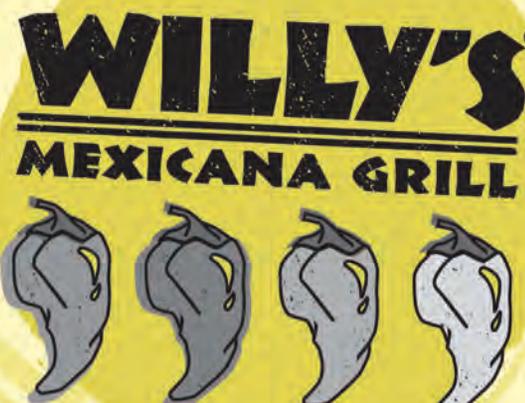
don't charge any tuition for citizens of any European Union nation. In Germany, universities such as the Berlin School of Economics and Law charge a mere \$325 a semester; in Spain, college can cost as little as \$25 per credit.

But the idea of the U.S. adopting such education policies seems highly unlikely. Even with an important election coming up this year, no candidate has talked about education reform. And why should they? College students have consistently come to the polls with low turnout. From a politician's point of view, why spend energy courting the approval of a demographic that has little influence on your

re-election capabilities? And with budget cuts being introduced by Congress and Gov. Scott, it's not surprising that America's education system is in a defunct state.

By cutting waste in the government and redirecting formerly squandered money to the U.S. Department of Education, a free university could be possible. Eliminating Saturday mail delivery alone could save about \$3 billion a year, and if we terminate the Government Printing Office by moving Congressional hearing information online, we could save \$8 billion. Those are two things that could potentially bring more than \$11 billion in new grants and scholarships annually without one tax increase. But this type of change seems to be a distant dream until college students get more involved in politics and force government to hear their needs.

Cody Futch is an economics freshman at UF.



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City, university officials discuss new district for Innovation Square



Alex Catalano / Alligator Staff

Commissioner Randy Wells and Linda Dixon, UF's assistant director of Facilities, Planning and Construction, discuss Innovation Square on Tuesday afternoon at a special economic development meeting at City Hall.

ADRIANNA PAIDAS

Alligator Writer

City and university officials met Tuesday afternoon to discuss creating a new city district around Gainesville's up-and-coming Innovation Square.

Gainesville City Commissioners Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Todd Chase and Randy Wells met with university officials who are overseeing the project to consider establishing a Business Improvement District to encompass the newly developed area.

"It would function like a neighborhood association, but with a lot more pull."

Ed Poppell

Innovation Square project overseer

The district would give Innovation Square the ability to make its own rules regarding issues such as landscaping, trash pickup and marketing strategies, said Ed Poppell, who works with the UF Development Corp. and who has overseen the project since it began in 2010.

Innovation Square covers 40

acres around Southwest Second Avenue where Alachua General Hospital once stood. It is a project funded by the city and UF that aims to create an urban environment consisting of residential space, high-tech businesses, retailers and restaurants.

Allowing Innovation Square to have its own district would promote collaboration between the city government, the stakeholders and the residents, said James Izzo, development consultant for UF Development Corp., at the meeting.

"It would function like a neighborhood association, but with a lot more pull," Poppell said in an interview.

The commissioners liked the idea and agreed to discuss the exact boundaries of the proposed Business Improvement District at the next commission meeting.

Commissioners also decided to talk more about changing parking areas in and around Innovation Square at the next commission meeting.

Officials would like special permits to build parking garages instead of parking lots to provide more room for buildings.

Graffiti group arrested, charged with burglary, criminal mischief

► MEMBERS OF SONS OF GRAFFITI ARRESTED TUESDAY.

JON SILMAN

Alligator Staff Writer

Gainesville Police arrested members of the group Sons of Graffiti on Tuesday and charged them with two counts of criminal mischief and one count of burglary.

Charles Allen Delong, 24, and Michael Terrance Steele, 20, admitted to tagging numerous businesses, signs and utility boxes around Gainesville, according to a police report.

DeLong said he tagged as "SO" and "SIN ONE." Other tags the group used are "S.O.G.," "TWIG" and "BUD76."

DeLong admitted to tagging three tour buses belonging to American Education Tours parked in the Americas Best Value Inn lot at 1900 SW 13th St. on Jan. 17. The cost to repaint the buses was estimated at \$15,000, according to the report.

On the morning of Jan. 12, the group broke into Continuum Apartments, a UF graduate community. Police have video surveillance showing one of the members of the group letting the rest in. It is unknown how they gained access to the building, the report said. The group caused an estimated \$500 in damage to the property.

The report says additional charges against Steele, Delong and other members of Sons of Graffiti are forthcoming.

Researchers to use zebra dung in biofuel project

Bacteria in dung may produce cheaper enzyme to make biofuel

SAMANTHA FRANCO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Most people wouldn't want to step in a pile of smelly zebra dung, but researchers at Tulane University are jumping right into it.

Scientists have found a bacterium called TU-103 in the waste of African zebras, which might be the solution to a cheaper enzyme for biofuel, according to The New York Times.

Tim Sink, an intern at UF's Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies Laboratory, said the available enzymes are expensive to use, so finding another microbe is essential to the economic efficiency of a biofuel project.

He said it's hard to guess whether the new enzyme will be successful because research is conducted on a trial-and-error basis.

Pratap Pullammanappallil, who teaches environmental biotechnology at UF, said animal droppings are commonly used to create another alternative energy source called biogas, a replacement for natural gas.

Jonathan Miot, director of the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, said zebras, which are in the same taxonomic family as

horses, have especially strong stomachs.

Miot referred to them as a garbage dump, because while most animals have trouble digesting various species of grasses, zebras can eat all of them.

Miot said zebras have excellent digestive systems due to the bacteria in their guts.

"Animals are a lot more creative than we think, though it's not intentional."

Jonathan Miot

director of the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo

When a zebra eats, the bacteria break down cellulose, a substance indigestible to mammals.

The bacteria produce a waste called volatile fatty acid, which the zebra uses as energy.

Zebras' bacteria just happen to be right for biofuel research.

"They eat, and they poop," Miot said. "It's what they do all day anyways."

But zebras can be dangerous to handle. They have a strong kick, which, he said, is equivalent to the power of a hand grenade explosion.

Scientists won't need to continue to gather droppings from captive zebras because the enzymes can be reproduced in a laboratory, Pullammanappallil said.

Miot said Tulane's project has the potential to inspire new ideas about how to harness animals' capabilities.

"There is a lot of stuff out there that we have no idea [about]," he said. "Animals are a lot more creative than we think, though it's not intentional."

Unite Party to announce presidential candidate

SAMANTHA SHAVELL

Alligator Writer

The Unite Party will publicly announce its presidential candidate for Student Government Spring Elections today.

At 12:35 p.m. on the Reitz Union North Lawn, a member of the Unite Party will announce his or her candidacy.

The Unite Party hopes to announce the treasurer and vice presidential candidates Wednesday.

"We want the [presidential candidate] to have adequate time to hold interviews," Unite Party spokeswoman Chris-

tina Bonarrigo said.

The presidential candidate will interview applicants for the other two positions and make the final selection.



Bonarrigo

The presidential and vice presidential candidates run on the same ticket, and all three candidates are from the same party, she said.

Students Party Sen. Carly Wilson said her party has not yet decided on a candidate.

Qualifying and slating don't end until Tuesday, and the party wants to encourage any qualified student to apply, she said.

Qualifying determines whether a candidate is qualified for the job. Students can interview with a political party to have the party's support as its slated candidate.

Wilson said when a Students Party candidate is chosen, he or she will be announced by party members who will talk with different organizations about the candidate.

"We don't pay much heed to the actual announcement," she said.

Locals cite environmental, financial concerns at biomass discussion

▶ ABOUT 25 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT AT THE CIVIC MEDIA CENTER.

ANGELA TEGNELIA
Alligator Contributing Writer

At a discussion Tuesday night about a controversial Gainesville power plant, even the youngest participant expressed concern.

Ben Morris, 12, explained his feelings on the issue during the Q&A session of the presentation, which was hosted by the Civic Media Center.

"My teacher at school has a quote of the day, and I think this one goes along with the issue with GRU," he said. "It goes, 'Don't ask the barber if you need a haircut.'"

The discussion was about a biomass plant project that broke ground in October. The plant will run on wood and household waste. About 25 people attended the discussion.

The presentation was organized in order to keep the

community informed, said Robby Czopek, a Civic Media Center staff member.

During the presentation, a small, heated debate broke out between two audience members about where a portion of the money for the project would be going.

"It is important to talk about this issue because there is a lot of misinformation out there, and this is an opportunity to set the record straight."

Paula Stahmer
Civic Media Center board member

The event speaker, Paula Stahmer, said she believes the project is "lousy, polluting and financially ruinous to the community."

"It is important to talk about this issue because there is a lot of misinformation out there, and this is an opportunity to set the record straight," Stahmer said.

The Civic Media Center is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources for activists and access to points of view not represented in for-profit media, according to its website.



David Carr / Alligator

Civic Media Center board member Paula Stahmer talks to Gainesville residents Tuesday evening about a controversial power plant project.

Rudolph Giuliani to speak at Phillips Center on Thursday

▶ DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.

ALEX MASI
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville will receive the insight of a former presidential candidate days before the Florida Republican primary.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani will speak at the

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

He will receive \$65,000 for his appearance.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. No ticket is necessary, and the show is free and open to the public.

Corey Portnoy, chairman of ACCENT Speakers Bureau, said Giuliani might discuss endorsing

a Republican presidential candidate during his speech.

Portnoy said the show is a great opportunity to hear and learn from an influential leader.

"Giuliani was at the center of our country at a time of a national crisis, and stu-



Giuliani

dents should be able to connect with him," he said.

UF political science professor David Hedge said he expects the former mayor to have an interesting perspective on politics and national security concerns.

A Q&A session will follow the speech.

A moderator will ask selected audience questions submitted before the speech, Portnoy said.

Security at the Phillips Center will be tightened Thursday night. All small bags will be checked and no backpacks will be allowed.

Giuliani was mayor of New York City from 1994 to 2001 and a Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

He was recognized as Time's Person of the Year in 2001.

Alligator writer Rachel Rowan contributed to this story.

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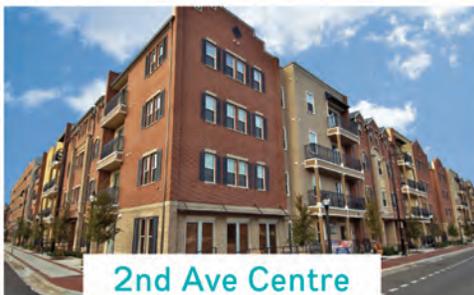
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AN AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITY



RUB premieres film about women in media

About 150 people attended

AYANA STEWART

Alligator Contributing Writer

About 150 people attended a screening of a documentary about the portrayal of influential American women at the Reitz Union auditorium Tuesday night.

Reitz Union Board Entertainment featured the film's first premiere in Florida. The crowd nearly filled the auditorium.

"Miss Representation" focused on the sexualizing of women in today's media industries. It featured interviews and commentary from women such as

comedian Margaret Cho, journalist and television host Lisa Ling and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Liz Martin, interim director of violence prevention at Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, and UF senior and Peaceful Paths intern Olivia Soutullo led a discussion panel after the movie.

Martin said she was pleased with the overall outcome of the event.

Peaceful Paths co-sponsored the event with the UF Women's Student Association and Student Government.

Peaceful Paths intern and 19-year-

old psychology and criminology sophomore Jasmine Esmailbegui said the documentary changed her perspective on media.

"The most substantial thing for me was how unaware I was that I was being bombarded," she said. "I probably won't watch reality television ever again or buy another tabloid."

Nineteen-year-old hospitality and tourism sophomore Kelly Colomberti is a member of the UF Women's Student Alliance and a self-proclaimed feminist and humanist.

"It was a powerful and concise way to get the message out in a way for people to finally understand," she said. "We don't need to become defensive about the term and idea of feminism. No one loses when we respect women."

Hospital CEO talks about career

JOVAHN HUERTAS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Dr. Narendra Kini knows how today's medical landscape works.

"Health care is changing in front of our eyes," he said.

He spoke to 14 people Tuesday night at Graham Gallery about his life and career, the changing landscape of modern medicine and the essentials to success for all careers.

Kini is the president and CEO of Miami Children's Hospital. Kini, who is board-certified in pediatric emergency medicine and holds a master's degree in hospital administration, assumed his current position in 2008.

He spoke for free. The event was sponsored by the Indian Student Association.

"Most of our events are culturally based, and we wanted to bring something new to ISA," said Satvika Ponnayolu, 21-year-old UF biology senior and president of ISA.

Kini focused his talk on the need for medical professionals to adapt to the Information Age.

"Data is exploding at four times the rate it used to every four months," he said. "The solution is data has to come to you at the point of care."

He stressed that flexible skill sets and teamwork are the most important criteria to get a job today.

"At the end of the day, success comes from teamwork and the ability to understand how the other person works," Kini said.



Kini

Grooveshark University accepting applications

SHELBY WEBB

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville-based music streaming business Grooveshark is taking applications for its free, semester-long workshop, Grooveshark University. Applications are due Thursday.

This will be the program's fourth semester teaching students in-depth software and computer development.

Unlike previous semesters, Grooveshark University is now offering two tracks for students. One will work with mobile development for Android phones, and the other will take ideas and programming skills and apply them to the real-world technological industry.

Paulo Dasilva, senior software engineer at Grooveshark, said the number of applicants for the program has been growing each semester, leading to increasingly overcrowded classes. As a result, they will cut back the number of students accepted from about 60 to between 32 and 40.

"That way, we can talk to people one-on-one to look at what

they're trying to do, see what problems they're having," Dasilva said. "It makes it a lot more personal."

Dasilva will teach the real world development track. Dave Small, a UF computer science professor, will teach the Android development track.

"All you need is just a little push."

Paulo Dasilva

Grooveshark senior software engineer

Applicants are not required to be computer science majors but are expected to have experience with programming. If you know one programming language or have made a program, you probably have enough experience, Dasilva said.

Applicants will be notified Friday night of Grooveshark University's decision.

"Just because you're in college doesn't mean you can't accomplish or make a big company or launch a cool product," Dasilva said. "All you need is just a little push."

UF organizations working to get more students out to vote

► CITY ELECTIONS AND THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY WILL BE JAN. 31.

JOVAHN HUERTAS

Alligator Contributing Writer

The Gainesville city elections are fast approaching, and, if two UF organizations have anything to say about it, students will be flocking to the polls.

Elections, which will be on Jan. 31, will match eight candidates against one another for the at-large 1 seat of the Gainesville City Commission, three candidates for the District 1 seat and candidates for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary.

In the March city elections, 57 people voted at the Reitz Union polling site.

UF College Democrats hopes to change the low number of student voters with its Vote 100 campaign, which aims to convince at least 100 UF students to vote this year.

Kyle Pendergrass, vice president of political affairs for the UF College Democrats, said the campaign includes collecting students' commitments to vote on either election day or in early voting, calling committed voters with reminders before the elections and offering rides to polling locations.

In addition, members will be advertising outside the Reitz Union on election day. The campaign has been successful so far, gaining 26

commitments in its first week.

"Our goal is to make [the process] as easy as possible for voters," he said.

The city elections may seem trivial to some students, Pendergrass said, but city officials make decisions on issues that directly af-

fect student life, such as apartment rates and bus routes.

"We're here for four years," Pendergrass said. "It's our home, and we need to have a voice in how the city does business."

The UF College Republicans will also be active on election day. However, its strategy is a bit different from previous years.

"If you really want an influence on how the government is run, you must vote."

Matt Pesek

UF College Republicans spokesman

Matt Pesek, UF College Republicans spokesman, said the club's focus is getting registered Republicans to the polls because the Republican Presidential Preference Primary is on the same day.

"On election day, we will be tabling on both Plaza of the Americas and Turlington Plaza with information on each candidate," Pesek said.

The primary and city candidates are placed on the same ballot, meaning voting in the primaries gives people the chance to vote in city elections. In any case, Pesek said, making the commitment to vote is key to an active political life.

"If you really want an influence on how the government is run, you must vote," he said.



Audre Larrow / Alligator Staff

UF College Democrats is offering voters free rides to polling locations, including the Supervisor of Elections County Administration building at 12 SE First St., for the Gainesville city elections on Jan. 31.

Classifieds

1 For Rent furnished

Get that rent money rolling in. Place an ad in the Alligator Classifieds to get your place rented out. Call 373-FIND.

\$445 per bedroom-All inclusive!
3/3 TH!! Roommate match avail
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1/1s Under \$500
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\$99 Move In Special!
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Deluxe, Large 3, 4, 5, 6, 7BR apt/house, 60 second walk to UF. Remodeled, Old House charm. Central AC, washer/dryer included. Wood floors. With Parking. By Private Owner. 538-2181 lv message 4-25-12-72-2

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No deposit!!!
Huge 1/1's 2/2's 3/3's
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2/1- 1000 sq ft - \$679
Great Location - Butler Plaza
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4-25-11-72-2

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2/2 Townhomes & 3/3 Flats
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4-25-11-72-2

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AVAILABLE NOW & FALL

●Studio \$410 ●1BRs \$425-495

●2BR/1.5BA, W/D \$580

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4-25-11-72-2

Greenwich Green
2/2 for \$869
Patio and Storage Closet
Call 352-372-8100

4-25-11-72-2

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$475. Many floor plans, some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, bedrooms carpeted. DW, W/D hook-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus route, some walk to UF. Call 352-332-7700 4-25-12-72-2

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Newly remodeled 2 & 3 BDs

Quiet neighborhood. Lots of upgrades.

Free 32" HD Plasma TV for new Sec 8 lease.

Must see! Call 332-7700 4-25-12-72-2

3bedroom \$509/person

All inclusive townhome with everything included! Utilities, cable, internet, furniture & washer/dryer. The Laurels apts. Call now: 4352-335-4455 4-25-11-72-2

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●4/2 in NW \$1300.

Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387

www.Gore-Rabell.com 4-25-11-72-2

2BR/1BA Cent heat mobile home. Shaded lot, laundry room. From \$380 to \$450/mo. Includes water. No pets. 1ST MONTH FREE! Vacant lots also available. 4546 NW 13th St. 376-5887 2-3-91-2

Gatornest - 300 NW 18 ST

\$550 - 1BR/1BA - 3 blocks to UF

Gatorside - 1600 NW4 AVE

\$450 - 1BR/1BA - 4 blocks to UF

Centerpoint - 1220 NW 12 ST

\$450 - 1BR/1BA - Bike to UF

2392 SW 2nd Ave - Across from law school

\$1650-special spring rate! - 4BR/2BA

W/D,DW, cent AC/heat

No application fee, most pets ok.

E.F.N. Properties, 352-371-3636 or

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rentals@efnproperties.com

1-31-12-16-2

SUN HARBOR APARTMENTS

2BR/1.5BA close to UF, Shands,Vet School

\$625 w/ 1 month free; \$595 selected units.

Contact our office to

inquire about student specials!!!!

Sun Island Properties

352.376.7041/352.376.6720

4-25-11-80-2

SUN BAY APARTMENTS

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2bed/1bath close to UF, Shands, Vet School

Units starting from \$550!!

Inquire about our student specials today!

Sun Island Properties

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4-25-11-79-2

3BR/2BA HOUSE, near UF, VA, Shands. 3627 SW 15th St. across from I-Hop. Fenced large backyard, fireplace. Available Feb 1st. REDUCED to \$850/mo. Prefer students or professionals 327-2931 or 376-6183 1-31-11-15-2

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\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee.

1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW.

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2 For Rent unfurnished

2 Large Homes in NW For RENT

5-7 bdrm \$2000 per month

Will Accommodate Individuals or Groups

Ask about Family Discount

Call Eric at (352) 682-7424

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Avail Aug 1st. 4BR/2BA great house. Fireplace, wash/dry provided, dishwasher, wood floors, fenced. Pets OK. 7 min bike to campus. \$1400/mo 830 NW 16th Ave 352-339-2342. Gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-27-12-14-2

3BR/1.5BA in Pleasant St, historic district, dwntwn. Ceiling fans, wood floors. Porch, newly painted. No dogs. 1st, last, sec. \$1100/mo call April. 538-1550
aprive@aol.com 1-31-12-15-2

★ CAMPUS EDGE CONDO ★

2/2 Walk to UF, Shands, VA & Pharm School.

Tile floor, W/D in unit. Avail fall. Reasonable rates. 239-300-1294 1-31-12-14-2

Avail Aug 1st. 4BR/2BA large house w/ big bedrooms & living room, extra game room. Fenced. Pets ok. W/D provided. 352-335-2342 or text 2100 NW 8th Court. \$1400/mo or go to gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-29-12-14-2

1/1 spacious apt, \$500, quiet, private, trees, close to downtown and UF, bus to SFC, carpet & tile, pvt. patio w/locking gate, for calm, stable, mature people. 1824 NW 9th St. 352 284 3873. postj@bellsouth.net 2-1-12-14-2

Avail Aug 1st. 4BR/3BA house. Incredibly beautiful, clean, modern house. W/D provided, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, lg rooms. 2108 NW 8th Ct. Text or call 352-339-2342. \$1550/mo. gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-27-12-9-2

AVAILABLE NOW!!

WALK TO UF! Nice 2BR/1BA house. \$450/ mo. Call Richard 371-4367 1-30-10-2

1 BED/1 BATH. Walk to Shands/UF.

Great kitchen and bath with w/d, disposal, dishwasher. Overlooks creek and trees. Small pet ok. \$535+ deposit. 352-371-9520, 352-317-2642 2-14-12-20-2

2BR/1.5BA TOWNHOUSE OVERLOOKING

A LARGE POND. Located west of Campus

Credit Union on County Road 20, Millrun

Subdivision. Clean & neat. New carpet. \$700/

mo. Call 352-871-7801 pfitz100@yahoo.com

1-25-12-5-2

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Off SW 34th St b/t Archer & Williston Rd.

Updated units, private courtyards, full W/D

avail. 1BR \$515, 2BR \$595 352-335-0420

2-15-12-20-2

GREAT VALUE - WOODLAND TERRACE

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Water, sewer, garbage provided.

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1BR \$445, 2 BR \$545. 352-335-0420 2-15-

12-20-2-2

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Oakridge Apts 1120 NW 45th Ave. Openings

for Vets who qualify under Section 8 Program.

2 For Rent unfurnished

Avail Aug 1st. 1BR/1BA house, fireplace, wood floors, W/D, 1 block from campus. 106 SW 12th St. \$525/mo. Call or text 352-339-2342. website: gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-27-12-9-2

Avail Aug 1st. 4BR/2BA house. Very private backyard, btw UF & Santa Fe. W/D provided, pets OK, tile throughout. 1330 NW 39th St. Call 352-339-2342. \$1200/mo. More info & pictures: gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-27-12-9-2

Avail Aug 1st. 4BR/2BA nice house close to campus. Fireplace, wood floors, nice private backyard, W/D included. 1105 NW 10th Ave. Call or text 352-339-2342. \$1550/mo. More info on gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 1-27-12-7-2

TOWNHOUSE - 2BR/1.5BA, W/D hook-up, pvt backyard, carpet, tiles, just painted. Extra clean. \$650/mo + sec. 2627 SW 38th Place. Available now. 941-204-1304 or 352-215-3160 1-26-12-5-2

BOARDWALK 2/2 \$500
Tennis & Pool Community
Near UF 2701 SW 13th Street
Sublet til July 31st @ \$500/mo
End Unit 980 Sq. Ft. 'Carlyle'
Compare @ \$699 - \$759. Move in today!
Call Sharon @ 352-215-3198
2-3-12-10-2

5 BEDROOM HOUSE
Walk to Campus! Wood Floors. Lots of Parking. All appliances included. Call John @ 561-866-8234. 1-27-4-2

2, 3, 4, & 5 BR houses blocks to UF. Rent directly from owner, no intermediary. Pets OK, dalyproperties.com or 352-359-3341/359-5584 2-29-11-27-2



-----Near UF-----
gainesvillestudentrentals.com 352-317-4408
●2/1 apt 204 nw 18 st \$1100
●4/2 house 929 nw 22 st \$1500
●4/3 house 3514 nw7 pl \$1500
●4/2 house 610 nw 34 ter \$1200
●5/3 house 630 nw 36 st \$1500
1-31-12-5-2

Tumblin' Creek condo! remodeled 1bed-1bath, balcony, wood floors, a/c, pantry, walk/bike to uf, pets neg. \$725. per/mo. University Mgt, Inc. Lic. real estate broker 373-7904 2-7-12-10-2

3 Subleases

Don't get stuck with an extra rent payment. Advertise your subleases in the Alligator Classifieds and save yourself some cash. Call 373-FIND.

One Bedroom Apartment to Sub-Lease Williamsburg Village Apartments Furnished or UnFurnished Flexible Availability 2 blocks south of Shands Hospital 352-376-1253 ask for Val 1-31-12-5-3

4 Roommates

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LOUD MUSIC!
Is your roommate driving you crazy? Find a replacement in the Alligator Classifieds!

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-25-72-4

4 Roommates

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Visa and Mastercard accepted.

4/2 2 blocks from Campus. \$350 including internet and cable. 814-440-3325
jfidorra@hotmail.com 2-13-11-30-4

SPACIOUS 2BR/2BA APT.
Convenient location to Shands, UF & Butler Plaza. Asking \$700/OBO. Please call Ketty 305-332-6566. yttek@hotmail.com 1-30-11-20-4

Roommates needed. House 2 blks to UF/Sorority Row, near Shands, Tigert, Mid/Downtown. 4 lg BR/2BA. Students preferred! Huge, very clean home. Cent AC/H, FP, W/D, new wd flrs, DW, 5 extra closets, fenced yard, plenty of parking, on quiet street. Only \$398/mo/room. Call/text Jordan 305-896-9066 1-31-19-4

District on 62nd: 1/1 in female 3/3 furn apt \$407/mo, incl utils credit, cable, HS internet. Near Mall, UF & SFC, on bus rte. Move in 2/1/12 w/lease end 7/31/12. Some fees apply. Criminal background check, 352-514-2942 1-31-12-5-4

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For Info on ALL Condos for Sale, Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551 4-25-72-5

5 Real Estate



Office Space and Penthouse Available
Call David Holbrook - (352) 213-8161
1-30-12-15-5

CONDO FOR SALE - SPARROW
3BR/2.5BA, 2-story. Approximately 1700 sq. ft., completely renovated. \$65,000. Please call Drew 316-4465 2-10-12-20-5

6 Furnishings

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BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-25-12-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-25-12-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-25-12-72-6

BED - KING - \$200 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-25-72-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$4500, must sell, sacrifice \$850 (352) 372-7490 4-25-72-6

6 Furnishings

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FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/mattress. New, in box. \$160 332-9899

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 4-25-72-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-25-72-6

BED - QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-25-72-6

BEDROOM SET - \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-25-12-72-6

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8 Electronics

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9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

10 For Sale

●●●●PARKING●●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-25-12-72-10

●Uf Surplus Equipment Auctions●
are underway...bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.ufl.edu 392-0370 4-25-12-72-10

GOATS FOR SALE
Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-25-73-10

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
by David L. Hoyt 1-25-12

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Legal scholar	RITSUJ
5. Military rank	MJOAR
6. Home to Boise	DOAIH
7. Address	MREOSN

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Scramble	MULBJE
2. Be happy	JEOECIR
3. Mocking remark	MCARSAS
4. Bar	SOOALN

CLUE: This Middle Eastern city is home to about 750,000 people.

BONUS ○○○○○○○○○○

How to play Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

ANSWERS: 1A-Jumble 2D-Reljice 3D-Sarcasm 4D-Saloon B-Jerusalem
1D-Jumble 2D-Reljice 3D-Sarcasm 4D-Saloon 5A-Major 6A-Ideho 7A-Sermon
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SCRABBLE® BRAND [G₂] [R₁] [A₁] [M₃] [S₁]

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□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	I ₁	U ₁	N ₁	R ₁	C ₃	T ₁	RACK 1
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	L ₁	T ₁	F ₄	D ₂	Double Word Score RACK 2
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	O ₁	U ₁	S ₁	W ₄	H ₄	D ₂	RACK 3
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	C ₃	K ₅	L ₁	P ₃	S ₁	3rd Letter Triple RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 211

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

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Guitars and Musical Instruments
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Check Us Out Before You Buy!!
Leonardo's Music, Micanopy, FL
352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com
4-25-11-99-10

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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WWW.RPMMOTORCYCLES.COM
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4-25-12-72-11

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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Now carrying Vespa Scooters!
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
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www.NS4L.com
4-25-12-72-11

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Will repair any make/model. Close to UF!
Pick-ups avail. Cheap oil changes!! 336-1271
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★★★Road Rat Motors★★★
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Road Rat Motors is Gville's #1 service facility. We repair ALL brands of scooters. Pickups available. Lowest labor rates around. Quickest turnaround time. Run by Gator Grads so we know how to treat our customers! 376-6275 4-25-12-72-11

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12 Autos

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

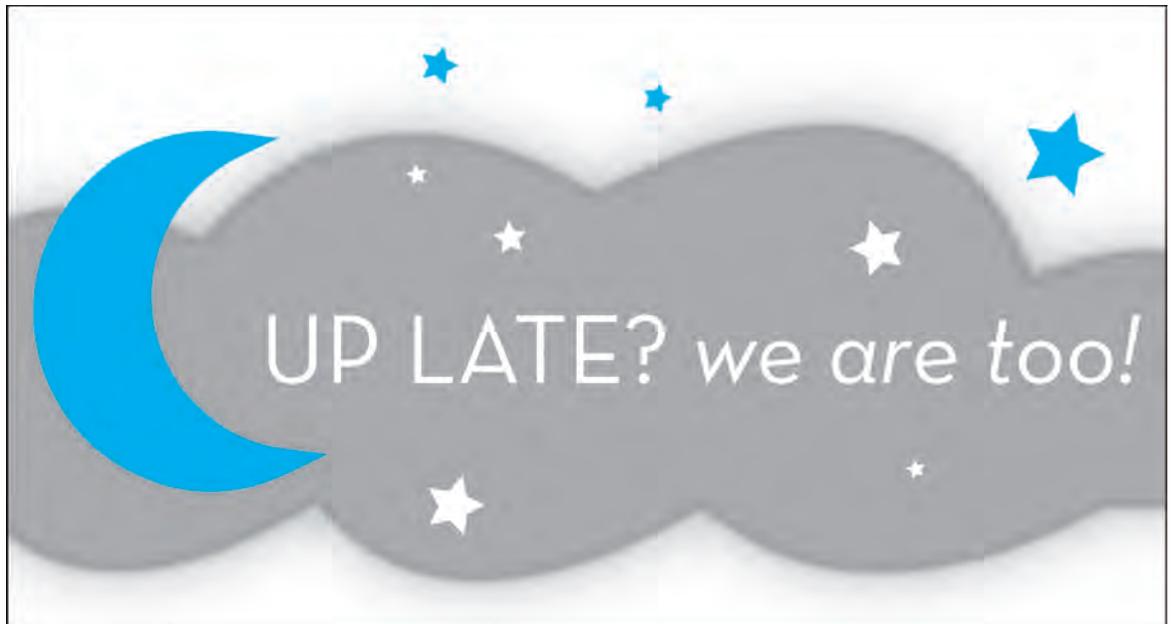
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 33 Hamburger's article | 45 Baffling problem |
| 1 Kid's summer spot | 1 Job, and then some | 35 Without | 46 Not marked up |
| 5 Ain't it the truth | 2 Asian capital on a peninsula | 36 All set | 47 Classic role for Clark |
| 9 Melville's Billy | 3 Champagne brand | 37 Championed, as a cause | 49 Military bigwigs |
| 13 Craft seen at many a 1-Across | 4 Assail (with), as snowballs | 38 Fruit used as a vitamin C supplement | 51 "Everything's fine" |
| 14 Banned apple treatment | 5 Classic film with dancing hippos | 39 Airport safety org. | 54 Worker protection agcy. |
| 15 Current about | 6 Hawaiian hi or bye | 43 Prenatal tests, for short | 55 Cherokee maker |
| 16 "Family Matters" nerd | 7 Works a wedding | 8 Catch | 56 www addresses |
| 17 ___ dry eye in the house | 9 Too well-done | 9 Too well-done | 57 50 Cent's genre |
| 18 Hindu music style | 10 Where not to be paddleless? | 11 Whence a front yard growl | |
| 19 Outdo other guests seeking a party drink? | 12 It may be used to ID a perp | 13 Like dice, shape-wise | |
| 22 Hotel annex? | 20 Chooses | 20 Chooses | |
| 23 Carson's late-night predecessor | 21 G.I. entertainment | 21 G.I. entertainment | |
| 24 Thurmond who was a senator for 47 years | 25 Robinson of song | 25 Robinson of song | |
| 26 Fancy neckwear | 27 November honorees | 27 November honorees | |
| 29 Bay Area airport letters | 28 Support group for kids of substance abusers | 28 Support group for kids of substance abusers | |
| 31 Lux. locale | 30 Scam that's "pulled" | 30 Scam that's "pulled" | |
| 32 Pitcher of milk? | | | |
| 34 Size up | | | |
| 36 Order one so-so ice cream drink? | | | |
| 39 Throw in the direction of | | | |
| 40 ___ one's game: performing below par | | | |
| 41 Bribe | | | |
| 42 Slice of history | | | |
| 44 Hardly silk purse material, in an idiom | | | |
| 48 Building brick | | | |
| 50 Bearing | | | |
| 52 Unnamed degree | | | |
| 53 Activate a dispenser for a fruit drink? | | | |
| 57 Civil rights icon | | | |
| 58 "You bet, señora!" | | | |
| 59 Rye fungus | | | |
| 60 A very long time | | | |
| 61 Lobe adornment | | | |
| 62 Slasher's title hangout, in film: Abbr. | | | |
| 63 Schools of whales | | | |
| 64 Pops the question | | | |
| 65 H.S. junior's exam | | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

I	P	S	O	E	T	C	H	S	T	E	V	E		
T	A	C	O	M	O	R	E	T	O	X	I	N		
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P	E	D	R	O	A	F	T	E	R	D	A	R	K	
A	B	A	S	E	R	O	A	R	A	T	I	E		
L	A	T	E	R	S	O	A	N	S	M	E	L	D	

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/25/12



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14 Help Wanted

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15 Services

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D ₂	E ₁	F ₄	L ₁	A ₁	T ₁	E ₁	RACK 2 =	<u>72</u>
S ₁	H ₄	A ₁	D ₂	O ₁	W ₄		RACK 3 =	<u>13</u>
S ₁	P ₃	A ₁	C ₃	K ₅	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 4 =	<u>67</u>
							TOTAL	<u>211</u>

PAR SCORE 150-160

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18 Personals

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18 Personals

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19 Connections

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20 Event Notices

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FREE GRE WORKSHOP. UF Teaching Center offers this workshop Monday - Thursday, 1/30 - 2/2. Verbal on M, W 5-7 pm, Math on T,R 5-7 pm. To register and learn the room location, go to the TC website www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu, and click on "Study Skills & GRE Workshop." 1-30-5-20

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23 Rides

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24 Pets

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25 Lost & Found

Finders Keepers? If you find something, you can place a FREE FOUND AD in our lost & found section. Be kind to someone who's lost what you've found. Call 373-FIND.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez



- TELEVISION: Who played Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show"?
- HISTORY: The Battle of Hastings was fought to control which country?
- CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: What award-winning Christmas book did Chris Van Allsburg write?
- MUSIC: By which nickname did The Doors' Jim Morrison refer to himself?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What Balkan leader's real name was Josip Broz?
- MOVIES: What shape did Hermione Granger's patronus take in the "Harry Potter" series?
- ENTERTAINMENT: What kind of entertainer would use the "DeManche change"?
- LANGUAGE: What is the Hawaiian word for "quick"?
- POETRY: Who wrote "Sonnets from the Portuguese"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest tidal estuary in the United States?

Answers

- Don Knotts
- England
- "The Polar Express"
- The Lizard King
- Tito
- A silver otter
- A magician
- Wiki
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Chesapeake Bay

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wilbekin fine with fewer minutes in full backcourt

JOHN BOOTHE
Alligator Staff Writer

On a team filled with new starters and changing roles, Scottie Wilbekin has been content to see his responsibilities remain static during his sophomore year.

As the Gators' backup point guard, Wilbekin saw firsthand earlier this season how difficult it was for starting senior Erving Walker to get used to more of a passing role after being a shoot-first guard his first three years.

At the time, Florida was also trying to break in two new frontline players as well as freshman guard Brad Beal.

"It's been tough for everybody, but I think [Erving's] done a good job of it, leading our team, trying to focus on getting assists than scoring," Wilbekin said. "I think it just shows how good of a player he is to make a transformation after three years of being a scorer."

Much like last season, Wilbekin has been used mostly as a defensive substitute by coach Billy Donovan. Wilbekin's averages of 2.4 points and 1.4 rebounds per game are almost identical to a year ago, and he's also

on pace to match his steals and assists output.

"Scottie has pretty much come off the bench like he always has," Donovan said.

"With all the good players on this team, you can't really get mad because every person on the team is a good player, so you just got to get in the game and work your hardest."

Scottie Wilbekin
UF sophomore guard

But with the addition of Beal and Rutgers transfer Mike Rosario to an already crowded backcourt, the 6-foot-2 Wilbekin has had his playing time decrease from 17.1 minutes each game to 13.7 minutes.

While he is seeing the floor less, Wilbekin said he doesn't think his role is decreasing for the Gators. Against LSU on Saturday, Wilbekin rebounded from a five-minute, scoreless showing a week earlier at South Carolina with five points and three assists in 15 minutes of playing time.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 20



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Sophomore guard Scottie Wilbekin is playing 3.4 fewer minutes per game this season after the additions of freshman Brad Beal and junior Mike Rosario to Florida's backcourt rotation.

Gators may be scrambling for post players next year

JOE MORGAN
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida's post play has arguably been its biggest weakness this season.

With the exception of junior forward Jennifer George, the Gators' forwards and centers have been inconsistent and underwhelming, statistically speaking.

Part of Florida's problem down low is a lack of depth.

UF has just three forwards and one center on their active roster, not including redshirted center Viktorija Dimaite.

However, the frontcourt will be even thinner going into next season.

The only returning post players who have logged significant playing time this season are George and redshirt sophomore Lily Svete, whose offensive game is perimeter-based.

"Since [Dimaite]'s gotten completely healthy, she has made a really great impression on us during practice," coach Amanda Butler said. "Obviously, we know what we're going to get from George and [Svete]."



Butler

With only George, Svete and Dimaite listed as forwards and centers on the official roster going into next season, the Gators will not have many experienced post players, but their top competition will.

No. 6 Kentucky, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 14 Texas A&M, and No. 17 Georgia will all field rosters with at least five 6-footers next season.

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 20

THE RALLY

Which spring sport is most likely to bring home a title?

Tom: Let's get this out of the way off the bat: Florida is a football school. The school's small sports are always threats to make a run at a national title, though.

With the semester underway and the spring season about to rev up for Gators athletics, you have to wonder: Which Florida team has the best chance to bring a national title back to Gainesville this year?

There are plenty of contenders on campus, but to me, the answer is simple: The Gators baseball team stands the best chance of sitting atop its sport by season's end.

John: True, that is a "simple" answer Tommy Boy.

I know this is a free, student-run newspaper and it's my first time in The Rally, but at



Tom Green
twitter: @tomas_verde



John Boothe
twitter: @jjboothe

least give the people an inkling as to why the UF baseball team will be able to duplicate last year's College World Series run. I'd say it's the Gators' returning pitching rotation, Mike Zunino's bat and a Baseball Amer-

ica preseason No. 1 ranking for the second consecutive year, and that's just for starters.

But here I am getting ahead of myself, giving you hints for what surely will be a feeble argument and forgetting the growing powerhouse program that is almost guaranteed to be the first team to bring a national championship to Gainesville in 2012.

In just its third year in existence, the Florida women's lacrosse team has already become a national contender alongside perennial favor-

SEE RALLY, PAGE 20



After suffering injuries to both ankles, sophomore Mackenzie Caquatto has returned to competition for UF's gymnastics team. See story, page 19.

Gators Find Replacement for Pantoni

Florida has hired Jon Haskins to replace departed recruiting coordinator Mark Pantoni, who left last month to join Urban Meyer's staff at Ohio State. Haskins previously worked in the same role at Nevada and Stanford.

Gators High in Preseason Rankings

Florida's baseball team checked in at No. 1 in Tuesday's Baseball America preseason poll, while the softball team came in at No. 2 in the USA Today/NFCA poll.

THE CONTINUUM

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GYMNASTICS

Caquatto returns from serious injuries

LONDON WATNICK

Alligator Writer

When Mackenzie Caquatto sprained and tore ligaments in both of her ankles last September during the final selection camp for the 2011 U.S. world team, her dreams also snapped.

After Caquatto landed short on her double-pike dismount on balance beam, she suffered a bilateral ankle sprain, taking her out of the running to make the U.S. team for the 2011 World Championships and Pan American Games.

The U.S. roster, which Caquatto would have likely made if she could have remained healthy, was announced two days after her injuries occurred.

"I was obviously aiming to make the world team," Caquatto said. "Not only did my ankles hurt, but I actually hurt inside because of all of the work I put in that summer. I had expectations and they kind of all just went away in the blink of an eye."

Because of all the pain and swelling she felt in her ankles, Caquatto said she couldn't sleep for three weeks.

Throughout that period, she couldn't walk and was forced to remain in a wheelchair.

Florida's coaching staff was worried that Caquatto, who was a key contributor on beam and uneven bars for the Gators last year as a freshman, could possibly miss the majority of the 2012 season.

"When you have severe ligament tears in both ankles, it's worse than a break," coach Rhonda Faehn said.

Caquatto rehabbed with her athletic trainer three times a day and took part in physical ther-

apy sessions twice a week. She also visited her chiropractor weekly.

When not in rehab or physical therapy, she wore two protective boots.

"I had expectations and they kind of all just went away in the blink of an eye."

Mackenzie Caquatto

UF gymnast

On a scale of 1-10, Caquatto said her desire to get back to competing was at a "12."

"It was killing me that I couldn't be out there," she said.

After she made significant progress in her rehabilitation, Caquatto made her season debut on the bars against Kentucky last Friday, recording a solid 9.775.

"It was a great return for her," Faehn said. "She still was a little tentative on the landing, so she didn't necessarily go for the stick, which is fine."

When No. 8 Florida hosts its first quad meet of the season against No. 1 Arkansas, No. 24 Maryland and Bridgeport on Friday night, Caquatto will compete on bars again.

Also, Faehn said Caquatto would join the beam lineup within the next month and return to performing her floor exercise toward the end of the season.

While Caquatto averaged an exceptionally high 9.86 on both bars and beam last season, she said she sees herself returning back to prime form by year's end.

"Hopefully, by the end of the season, I'll get back up there," Caquatto said.



Alligator File Photo

Sophomore Mackenzie Caquatto returned to UF's bar rotation last Friday.



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Junior tennis player Lauren Embree, who clinched the NCAA title for the Gators last season, is ranked No. 25 in the ITA individual rankings to start the year.

No. 1 Gators begin NCAA title defense

► FLORIDA HOSTS TROY TODAY AT 3 P.M. IN LINDER STADIUM.

ELI MARGER

Alligator Writer

When a championship team returns all of its starters the following season, one word immediately comes to mind — repeat.

For the No. 1 Florida women's tennis team, a second straight national championship is clearly in the crosshairs. The Gators will begin their road back to the NCAA Championships on Wednesday when they host Troy at 3 p.m. in Linder Stadium.

Under the guidance of Roland Thornqvist, who could notch his 250th victory as Florida's coach with a win Wednesday, the Gators are returning all seven players from last year's team.

Thornqvist, however, says that expectations this year are no different than in years past.

"Our players almost every year in my 11 years here have had the same goal," he said. "We don't really talk about those things, honestly. We try to make each month its own chapter and try to improve individually month by month."

With the team returning every player, the Gators are more mature and deeper than they were last year and have become close-knit.

"We're great friends on the team," junior Lauren Embree said. "We don't have any problems, so that just really helps the team and that's probably a big part (of) why we did so well last year."

Embree is one of three Gators currently

ranked in the top 25 nationally. Joining the 25th-ranked Embree are No. 3 Allie Will and No. 4 Joanna Mather.

Beyond those three, No. 34 Sofie Oyen and No. 41 Alex Cercone will also play major roles on the team.

Yet where many teams lag behind in the fifth and sixth slots in their singles rotation, the Gators are extremely strong. Junior Caroline Hitimana and sophomore Olivia Janowicz were a combined 32-3 in singles play last year. Earlier this month, Hitimana won the consolation singles title at the Freeman Memorial Championship in Las Vegas.

It's all part of the Gators' pedigree, says Thornqvist.

"That's why we try to recruit successful junior players, players who are not only skilled but they're used to winning."

With nationally ranked teams like North Carolina, Duke, Stanford and Baylor on the schedule, repeating as national champions will be no cakewalk.

"It's very hard to repeat, and we have the same team, so we're all just going to work as hard as we can and hopefully the hard work will pay off," Embree said.

Following Wednesday's opener, the Gators have a home match against UCF before opening a daunting month of February during which they play No. 2 Stanford, No. 8 North Carolina, No. 18 Florida State and No. 42 South Florida.

"Every time we set out to practice, our goal is obviously May," Will said. "But we have a lot of tough teams to play before then, and I think the goal is just to get better every day and be as well prepared in May as we possibly can."

Wilbekin more mature, improving 3-point shot

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"With all the good players on this team, you can't really get mad because every person on the team is a good player, so you just got to get in the game and work your hardest," Wilbekin said.

Though Wilbekin has improved his outside shooting from last season five percentage points to 33.3 percent, the most important facet he has added to his game has been his maturity level on the court.

In practices and during games, Wilbekin said Donovan has had to remind the Gators to have a short mem-

ory when facing adversity on the road.

"If you have one guy who's upset because he missed two free throws and he's running back on defense and he's not tuned into what's going on, you're going to break down," Donovan said. "Those are things, maturity-wise, that you have to understand that you're not getting that play back."

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Donovan

Florida facing size deficit next season

W-HOOPS, from page 17

Barring late signees, Florida will only have four, with just two standing 6 foot 2 inches or taller. UGA will have six at least that tall, and UK, A&M and UT will all have three or more.

Butler has nabbed forward Christen Mercer and guards Sydney Moss, Chandler Cooper and January Miller in her latest recruiting class.

Moss and Cooper are ranked No. 50 and No. 51, respectively, in the 2012 ESPNU HoopGurlz 100 and boast four-star rankings along with Miller.

Mercer — a 6-foot, three-star prospect — is the Gators' only post player signed.

However, experience at a specific position, or at the collegiate level, does not concern Butler in regards to who she will put out on the court next season.

"We also have in that freshman class Sydney Moss, who can play [power forward], Christen Mercer, who can play [power forward]," Butler said. "Anyone we add in late signing would have to work with what we already have."

Butler puts a lot of trust in the forwards and centers she does recruit by not seeking out other top talent at those positions.

The 2012 ESPNU HoopGurlz 100 lists three Floridian 6-footers in Alexis Prince, Macy Keen and Hillary Fuller, but none of them considered signing with the Gators.

In her last three classes, Butler has signed eight high school prospects and only three of them have been forwards or centers. The highest-ranked recruit of the trio — Deandra Young from the 2010 class — transferred before the start of this season.

In addition to her heavy recruitment of perimeter prep players, Butler also added two JUCO transfers prior to last season in Lanita Bartley and Deana Allen, both of whom are guards.

One potential cause for Butler's affinity for guards may be Florida's emphasis on the transition game.

The Gators have employed a three-guard lineup since Butler's arrival and switched to a more up-tempo style at the beginning of last season.

However, Butler shot down that notion, remarking, "It just seems that way."

Butler said that she is always recruiting and that Florida is currently evaluating some potential late signees to add to its 2012 haul.

Already guard-heavy, it's possible Butler will be looking to add some much-needed size to the paint.

"We're really excited about the class we've assembled," Butler said. "We're looking at someone that can complement those freshmen."

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RALLY

, from page 17

ites like Maryland and Northwestern. Just last season, the Gators shocked the collegiate lacrosse landscape when they beat the 2011 NCAA champion Wildcats at home to win their first American Lacrosse Conference title.

UF returns 11 of 12 starters — all sophomores and juniors — from an Elite Eight team that went 16-4 overall and 5-0 in ALC play.

Though the Gators are still a young team, they've had no problems learning how to win quickly.

Tom: What is this, the final rap battle scene from "8 Mile"?

"This guy's no [expletive] MC, I know everything he's got to say against me."

Look Boothe, while I admire your preemptive strike to shoot down my argument, you've only scratched the surface as to why Kevin O'Sullivan and his boys have the best chance to snag an NCAA title.

Yes, the Gators return their weekend rotation of Hudson Randall, Brian Johnson and Karsten Whitson, but they also add a formidable midweek starter in freshman Johnny Magliozzi. According to scouting reports, Magliozzi has a monster curveball, a fastball that hits in the 90s and a kneebuckling changeup.

Oh, and he's not afraid to get in the face of opposing batters when he rings them up. He's a real-life Kenny Powers, really.

Mix that in with the versatile Johnson, Whitson and the most-feared redhead since the "Child's Play" movies, and you're looking at the best college rotation. And at this level, pitching wins titles.

John: One ... two ... yep, that's three pop culture references in one retort. I would say I'm impressed, Tom, but you beat me to it and already humble-bragged on Twitter.

"@Tomas_Verde: Rallying w/ @JJBoothe for tomorrow's paper. Just worked in 8 Mile, Eastbound and Down and Child's Play references within words of each other"

While you're busy pining for retweets, I'm trying to give the readers substance.

Though both certainly return a wealth of talent, Florida lacrosse has something UF baseball doesn't — the best offensive player in the game.

Gators attacker Kitty Cullen spent her All-American sophomore campaign leading the nation in scoring during the regular season with 77 goals and had a hat trick in 16 of the Gators' 20 games.

When she wasn't peppering opponents on one of her four six-goal games, Cullen was challenging the NCAA record books.

She owns the second-fastest goal to start a game in NCAA history, needing just eight seconds to score last April against Penn State.

In many ways, Cullen's offensive jump following a 31-goal freshman season mirrors her team's inaugural 2010 season, in which the Gators finished 10-8.

Who knows if it's the top-notch facilities or training in the Florida heat, but the sudden improvements UF saw with Cullen and the rest of its team aren't seen very often in any sport.

Tom: Pining for retweets? If anything, I was just teasing our loyal readers for what to look forward to today — and trying to give you a much-needed bump in followers.

While Cullen is a force to be reckoned with, the baseball team also happens to tout one of the best offensive players in the game in Zunino. You remember him, right Boothe? After all, you did mention the reigning Southeastern Conference Player of the Year earlier.

Zunino led Florida in a multitude of offensive categories: total bases (178), hits (98), runs (75), doubles (23), home runs (19), slugging percentage (.674) and on-base percentage (.442) — all as a sophomore.

Zunino's back to not only wreak havoc on opposing pitchers, but to handle Florida's loaded pitching staff, too. His defense and ability to help call games with Sully are vi-

tal, but his offensive contributions can't be overlooked. Oh, and Zunino has protection throughout the batting order in the form of Johnson, Nolan Fontana, Austin Maddox and Preston Tucker.

That lineup should have you scared to death, scared to look and shook, because there's no such thing as halfway crooks — and this team stands the best chance to go all the way.

John: Aside from Cullen, the Gators also have an arsenal of offensive weapons. Juniors Ashley Bruns and Brittany Dashiell are both known, potent scorers, but Florida still has a few surprises left to spring on its opponents this season.

Coach Amanda O'Leary has become arguably the best recruiter in women's lacrosse, with three straight top-five classes. Florida's current crop of juniors was part of O'Leary's No. 1 rated class, according to Inside Lacrosse, and this year's third-ranked haul is no slouch either, with four of the seven freshmen ranked in the top 20.

By the end of this season these players will be doing more than just contributing, they'll be helping the Gators lift their first national championship trophy.

Contact Tom Green at tgreen@alligator.org and John Boothe at jboothe@alligator.org.

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