

'Smash' makes its way to NBC right after the Super Bowl. Page 10 has all the info for musical fans.



RECRUITING

Muschamp pulls in top-three class



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Florida hauled in 23 commitments in coach Will Muschamp's first full recruiting class, including 14 players who play on the line of scrimmage.

MATT WATTS
 Alligator Staff Writer

Will Muschamp kept his word — and improved his first full recruiting class Wednesday — by getting one of the state's top commits to do the opposite.

After losing to bitter rival Florida State on Nov. 26, Muschamp pledged to rebuild Florida through the recruiting process, starting first with the lines of scrimmage. The Gators made a big splash in that regard on National Signing Day when five-star St. Petersburg Lakewood defensive end Dante Fowler Jr. switched his commitment from the Seminoles, deciding instead to spend his college career in Gainesville.

Fowler is the eighth recruit in Florida's 2012 class who plays on the defensive line. In all, Muschamp nabbed 14 line-of-scrimmage players to help bring UF's class to the No. 3 national ranking, according to Rivals.com.

"You recruit through this process and sometimes when you get there on signing day, you're leaving it up to the young man and his family to make a decision," Muschamp said. "We're excited to add another good pass rusher to our program."

In addition to Fowler, the Gators inked the No. 1 overall defensive end, five-star Jonathan Bullard out of Shelby (N.C.) Crest High, and two four-star tackles in junior college transfer Damien Jacobs and Venice High's Dante Phillips. UF also added three more defensive ends, including Fort Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas' Bryan Cox Jr.

"I certainly feel like we've addressed our most pressing need on both lines of scrimmage," Muschamp said. "I'm really excited

SEE RECRUITING, PAGE 19

Two public masturbators seen Sunday

EMILY MORROW
 Alligator Staff Writer

Gainesville Police are looking for two men who were spotted publicly masturbating on separate occasions Sunday night.

Two women were walking from their car in the parking lot of Stratford Court Apartments, 604 SW 10th St., when they saw a man sitting on an electrical box with no pants on. He was masturbating.

Police said the women ran upstairs to their apartment and saw the man's shiny, light gray basketball shorts laying on the steps.

By the time police arrived, both the man and his basketball shorts were gone. An Alachua County Sheriff's Office K-9 search of the area was unsuccessful, according to the police report.

The women told police the suspect was a thin, light-skinned man with short, dark hair. He was wearing a gray-striped shirt.

They also told police they had seen the man two other times hanging around the apartment complex.

About an hour later, police responded to another call from the Walgreens on Archer Road where a man was masturbating in his car.

This man also left before police arrived on the scene, said GPD Lt. Jorge Campos.

Campos said the two men had similar descriptions, but police do not believe they were the same person.

Pfizer recalls two types of birth control for packaging error

Tablets may not be in correct sequence

SAMANTHA SHAVELL and SHELBY WEBB
 Alligator Writers

Drug company Pfizer Inc. recalled two types of birth control Wednesday that could be less effective because of a packaging error.

The company recalled certain batches of Lo/Ovral-28 and batches of Norgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol based on the lot number.

The packets might have tablets out of order or have incorrect numbers of active and inactive tablets, according to a Pfizer news release.

Users can look up their prescription's lot number on

"I have to be more aware of what kind I'm on and how accredited the business is that is giving out my birth control."

Anna Fuhrer
 UF sophomore

the pill pack and the company website.

GatorWell sexual health specialist Samantha Evans said women on the affected medications should use a condom or abstain from sex until they get a correct dose of hormonal birth control.

When 19-year-old political-science junior Sally Cohen

heard about the recall, she immediately jumped up to re-search if the pills were causing health risks.

She relaxed when she learned they aren't.

She said she wasn't sure which pill she was on, but she knew it was a generic pill, like the second of the recalled contraceptives.

Twenty-year-old telecommunication sophomore Anna Fuhrer was taken aback and didn't know which pill she was on. She looked it up and realized hers is not made by Pfizer.

"I have to be more aware of what kind I'm on and how accredited the business is that is giving out my birth control," she said.

Eight other types of birth control pills were recalled in September after packaging errors.

These pills were not manufactured by Pfizer.

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Office of Sustainability launches local food campaign
 Program began Wednesday at Gator Dining, pg 3.
Alachua County Fairgrounds to relocate in a few years
 Fairgrounds will move two miles to the north, pg 5.



National Signing Day Coverage:
 Florida's first full class under Will Muschamp was highlighted by the signings of three five-star recruits, including D.J. Humphries. See graphic, pg. 18.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Return of Alpha Zeta Rose Sale

Today through Feb. 14

Want to surprise a loved one or a dear friend with some roses this Valentine's Day? The Alpha Zeta Rose Sale returns this year to make it possible. Contact Gernide Zamor at gzamor08@ufl.edu for an order form. Once submitted, members of Alpha Zeta will deliver the order anywhere on campus (faculty and staff only). Orders range from bouquets to single roses.

Islam Fair

Today

Reitz Union Lawn and Colonnade

Join Islam on Campus for its annual Islam Fair as part of Islam Awareness Month. Come learn about Muslims from various regions of the world, eat Middle-Eastern food and learn about upcoming Islam Awareness Month events. There will also be henna, trivia, calligraphy, tie-dye hijab booths and more. The event is free. For more information, visit islamoncampus.com

Reitz Union Entertainment Board presents "Groundhog Day"

Today, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Reitz Union Auditorium

RUB presents "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray as a weatherman living the same day over and over again. The movie is free and open to the public.

Free salsa classes with the Gator Salsa Club

Today, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Reitz Union Colonnade

Come and join the Gator Salsa Club to learn some salsa moves for free. The lessons will be held on the Reitz Colonnade every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The club will teach Dance on 2 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. followed by Casino style from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. No experience or partner is required. All levels of dancers are welcome.

Gators for Haven Hospice First General Body Meeting

Today, 6:30 p.m.

Reitz Union, Rooms 346-347

At this meeting, the club will talk about the application pro-

FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 81/55	CLOUDY 77/56	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/54	THUNDER STORMS 79/54	THUNDER STORMS 78/54

cess to volunteer at Haven Hospice, talk to a Princeton Review Rep about available courses, discuss service and social events, and have representatives from other organizations talk about medical mission trips they offer in the future and how you can get involved. If you have any questions, email gators4hh@gmail.com or visit gators4hh.com.

UF Libertarians screen "Waiting for Superman"

Today, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Matherly, Room 118

For National School Choice Week, the UF Libertarians will be screening "Waiting for Superman," a Sundance award-winning documentary that analyzes the failures of the public education system in America. Those interested in education, public choice, political economy, public policy and liberty are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Soweto Gospel Choir

Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Phillips Center for Performing Arts

Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir pays homage to tribal, traditional and popular African and Western music while uplifting souls with earthy rhythms, dynamic harmonies and a cappella vocals. Student tickets are \$12. Visit performingarts.ufl.edu for more information.

James E. Scott Black Student Leadership Conference

Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Ustler Hall

IBC's annually hosted conference provides students with skills that can help them become more effective leaders through workshops, discussions, presen-

tations and guest speakers. For more information, visit multicultural.ufl.edu/bslc.

Joshua Bell

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Phillips Center

Hailed as the most celebrated American violinist of the modern era, Joshua Bell partners with British pianist Sam Haywood in a critically acclaimed 21-city tour. This magnificent collaboration will include works by Brahms, Schubert and Grieg. Student tickets are \$20. Visit performingarts.ufl.edu for more information.

Dance Marathon hosts 5K, FT5K

Sunday, 8 a.m.

UF Commuter Lot

Dance Marathon at UF is hosting its annual 5K, the "FT5K." Early online registration is \$20, and same-day registration is \$25. A 1-mile fun run is an option for \$10 for those who like shorter distances. All proceeds benefit Shands Hospital for Children, our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. To learn more and register, visit www.floridadm.org/5k.

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.

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. 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 92

ISSN 0889-2423

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications Inc., of Gainesville, Florida

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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.

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CITY ELECTIONS

Few students on campus turn out to polls Tuesday

ADRIANNA PAIDAS
Alligator Writer

Student voter turnout on campus remained low in Tuesday's elections.

Out of the 4,173 voters registered at the Reitz Union, 119 voted.

Low student turnout is not unusual for city elections.

In the March City Commission race, 57 people voted at the Reitz Union precinct — 4,471 people were registered to vote. In the mayoral race in March 2010, 85 people voted at the Reitz Union out of 4,465 registered voters.

Supervisor of Elections Pam Carpenter said the Reitz Union is the main precinct for students who live on-campus. Off-campus students vote at precincts across the city.

"I always wonder why the younger population doesn't turn out to vote," Carpenter said. "This election is bipartisan, so it allows everyone to get involved and be heard."

Jeremy O'Neal, a 24-year-old environmental engineering master's student, said he was

too busy with schoolwork to research the candidates before election day.

Tyler Payne said he didn't vote in the city elections because city elections in his hometown are more important.

"I just feel more connected to my city government at home," said Payne, a 21-year-old business management and religion senior.

After he voted Tuesday, 19-year-old Frank Plageman spent the afternoon encouraging students to vote at the Reitz Union.

Plageman, who is from Jupiter, said he thinks the biggest reason students do not vote in city elections is because of their apathy toward City Commission.

"What students don't realize is that if they spoke up, the City Commission would listen to them," the political science sophomore said. "Then, the commission would be less likely to create an ordinance that students don't like."

Carpenter said she urges students to vote in the runoff election on Feb. 28.

"You have another opportunity to have your voice heard," she said. "Students really should participate."

UF kicks off local food campaign at Gator Corner

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students and Gainesville residents gathered at the Gator Corner Dining Center on Wednesday morning for a breakfast featuring crepes with local organic citrus, tempeh scramble with cage-free eggs and organic oatmeal with local fixings.

The Farm-to-Table Breakfast served as a kickoff to the UF Office of Sustainability's Food For Thought campaign, which runs Feb. 1 to April 26.

The campaign will educate people on food and sustainability issues, said Ashley Pennington, the Office of Sustainability's outreach coordinator. She said the campaign's main goal is to connect people with local resources.

At the breakfast, each cooking station featured a description of the food and its origin, and attendees received

guides to sustainability printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.

The entire campaign will cost UF about \$5,000, according to Anna Prizzia, director of the Office of Sustainability.

She said local food is food that comes from within 250 miles.

"Since it is an awareness campaign, I think we will be gauging [success] based on who is coming out and how many people are showing up to the events," Prizzia said. The campaign will include surveys to learn people's reactions to events.

Other events will include speakers, a do-it-yourself series of canning and preserving food and a film screening as a part of the Cinema Verde Environmental Film and Arts Festival. The full calendar of events can be found on the Food For Thought website, sustainable.ufl.edu/food.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Unite Party announces executive candidates for spring election

SAMANTHA SHAVELL

Alligator Writer

The Unite Party announced its first all-minority executive candidates between classes Wednesday afternoon.

The party announced Sabine Justilien as its vice presidential candidate and Juan Rodriguez as its candidate for treasurer to about 30 people in the Reitz Union Amphitheater.

Justilien currently serves in the vice president's cabinet and Rodriguez is the current Student Body vice president.

Last week, Tj Villamil announced his candidacy to run with the Unite Party for Student Body president.

On Wednesday, he introduced his running mates. He said their goal will be to enhance the student experience in every possible way.

He also said if they are elected, this would be the first time in UF history three minorities will serve as student leaders.

Justilien, the division chair for campus life, said she was pleased

that UF bore witness to an all-minority ticket on the first day of Black History Month.

Before her role in cabinet, Justilien was the assistant director of Multicultural Affairs, she said after the announcement.

Rodriguez said if he is elected, he would ensure the \$5 million budget allocated to Student Government would be used properly.

"I am excited to bring him back to where his expertise lies."

Tj Villamil

Student Body president candidate

Rodriguez, a former member of the Student Senate budget committee, stepped in as vice president when Anthony Reynolds left the position to replace Ben Meyers as president.

Before he was vice president, Rodriguez was working on writing guidelines to the finance codes, Villamil said after the announcement.

"I am excited to bring him back to where his expertise lies," Villamil said.



Haley Stracher / Alligator Staff

Tj Villamil, Sabine Justilien and Juan Rodriguez pose for another photographer at the Reitz Union Amphitheater on Wednesday afternoon. The three announced that they will be running together on the ballot for the Unite Party elections.

Two city-bought iPads in limbo after city elections

► COMMISSIONERS CAN PURCHASE OR GIVE UP IPADS AFTER TERM.

SHELBY WEBB

Alligator Writer

City Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa received an iPad from the city a little more than a year ago and is still giddy about it.

"I very much like it," Mastrodicasa said, laughing. "It saves money for the city, and I think it also helps us in our meetings."

However, with elections for the City Commission on Tuesday, two current city commissioners will be out of office this year. This means their city-paid-for iPads will have to be returned to the city or purchased for a discounted price.

The city bought the iPads for the seven city commissioners, the city manager and the city attorney.

If turned back into the city, the iPad's memory will be erased, and the device will be given to an incoming commissioner. If a commissioner chooses to purchase it, it will

cost him or her about \$200, which will go into a fund for buying new iPads.

Becky Rountree, the city's director of administrative services, said the devices were bought with the savings the city obtained by going paperless.

The city paid \$499 for each iPad a little more than a year ago, which Rountree said was much less than it would cost to print all the documents that go through City Hall.

She said it cost \$785 a year to print the agendas for each commission meeting. The city saved about \$5,500 a year in paper and ink by switching to the devices.

Rountree said the savings are substantial when you factor in the time it took city employees to organize, file and bind the agendas.

Given her options, Mastrodicasa said she would most likely purchase her iPad from the city at the end of her term in a few months.

"I actually don't use it much for personal use now," Mastrodicasa said. "But I have two small children, and everyone tells me they'll love to play with it."

Exonerated boxer to speak at Reitz

KALEIGH STEINORTH

Alligator Contributing Writer

Dewey Bozella, falsely imprisoned for 26 years and the 2011 recipient of the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, will tell his story to Gainesville tonight.

Bozella served 26 years in Sing Sing prison for a murder he did not commit. He was exonerated in 2009.

He will speak in the Rion Ballroom of the Reitz Union. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event starts at 8 p.m.

He will be paid \$12,500.

No ticket is necessary, and the event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. A Q&A session will follow the event.

Bozella was given four opportunities for early release if he admitted guilt, but he refused to admit to a crime he did not commit, according to greatertalentnet-

work.com.

Bozella used boxing to motivate him throughout his time in prison, and he eventually earned the title of light heavyweight champion of Sing Sing. Upon his release, Bozella fought his first and only professional match, beating opponent Larry Hopkins at the Staples Center by an unanimous decision.

Corey Portnoy, chairman of Accent Speakers' Bureau, said he expects Bozella's story of courage to resonate with all members of the audience.

"Dewey Bozella stands for courage, and that's something that all students at the University of Florida should aspire to have," Portnoy said. "I feel that his words of advice will help those who might be faced with an issue that challenges their integrity."



Bozella

Bike thieves deterred by UPD decals

152 bikes stolen last year

SHELBY WEBB

Alligator Contributing Writer

The first time someone stole Lina Ramirez's bike, she was in Walgreens getting a snack. She was only going to be a second, she thought, so she didn't lock it.

About a month later, the 21-year-old mathematics and economics junior parked her new bike at home, but she struggled with a flimsy lock. She thought it was locked, but apparently it wasn't. Someone stole that one, too.

"It sucks," Ramirez said. "The first time, I was really really upset, and the second time I was like, 'Oh God, not again.'"

Ramirez never recovered the bikes. She didn't report them stolen, and neither was registered with the University Police Department.

UPD registered 1,493 bikes in 2011. There were 112 bicycles reported stolen in 2010, and 152 bikes were reported stolen in 2011. UPD bike officer John Savona said a lot of bikes are stolen each year, but many people, like Ramirez, don't file a report.

Savona said UPD offers free registration and bike-engraving for students, faculty and staff.

Bikes can be registered with any police officer on campus or with the front desk of UPD's office on Museum Road.

The numbered decals give owners a much better chance of recovering missing or stolen bikes. Savona said the decals provide proof of ownership, which is critical when trying to identify a recovered bike.

"As soon as we register a bike, it gets entered in our data system,"

Savona said. "If I stop someone and I see they have a decal, I can match it up to the owner."

Savona registers some students' bikes in lieu of writing them a citation, he said, in order to deter thieves.

"One time, I arrested a bike thief, and I asked him why he didn't take this one bike," Savona said, "and he said he didn't want to take it because it had a UPD decal."

If someone lost a bike or fears it was stolen, but didn't register it, Savona said there is little more that a person can do aside from filing a report with UPD. Even after that, the chances of getting the bike returned are slim.

Ramirez now rides her friend's old bike, which she fixed herself. She said despite her bad luck with bikes, she won't register this one any time soon.

"I hate this bike," Ramirez said. "If I got a new bike that I actually cared about, I would."

Alachua County Fairgrounds to relocate in a few years

The fairgrounds will be moved two miles north

BENJAMIN S. BRASCH
Alligator Writer

The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire will be moving, but not for a few years.

The Alachua County Fairgrounds will be relocated two miles north of the Gainesville Regional Airport between North 63rd Avenue and North 69th Avenue. The current site will be replaced with a retail shopping area.

"I am glad it will impact the east side of Gainesville economically, and it will bring jobs."

Linda Piper
events coordinator with the City of Gainesville Division of Cultural Affairs

The move will affect the logistics of the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire in the future. However, a previous pitch to move the fairgrounds to Newberry could have jeopardized the future of the fair, which is attended by thousands of people each year.

The city of Newberry put in a fall proposal to relocate the county fairgrounds to a complex in its city instead of the Gainesville location on Waldo Road.

Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe said in an interview in the fall that

he would not allow a city-funded fair to take place in Newberry. Lowe's main argument was that

it would give the perception Gainesville isn't interested in developing the east side of town.

Plan East Gainesville is a project to bring jobs and economic growth potential into East



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Gypsies dance at the Hoggetowne Medieval Fair on Saturday. The Alachua County Fairgrounds will be moving to a site two miles north of the Gainesville Regional Airport in a few years for a total cost of \$24 million.

Gainesville.

Rick Drummond, interim county manager, said moving the fairgrounds is an integral part of Plan East Gainesville.

Newberry's pitch has since been dropped, he said.

The Waldo Road land was purchased by Alachua County for \$2 million in 2006. It will take about \$22 million to get the location prepped to be a fully working fairground.

One of the reasons that the move is taking so long is the budget for the fairground project was cut.

The budget, which was originally \$21 million to \$28 million, has been decreased to between \$12 million and \$14 million, Drummond said.

"The economic realities have changed since we first wanted to pull the trigger on this project," Drummond said.

Linda Piper, events coordinator with the City of Gainesville Division of Cultural Affairs, said one of the main advantages of the move is an increase in parking.

The current fairgrounds can hold 1,000 cars, and the new fairgrounds will be able to park 5,000 cars, she said.

She said the move will be beneficial to eastern Gainesville.

"I am glad it will impact the east side of Gainesville economically," Piper said. "And it will bring jobs."

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Opinions

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012
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Editorial

No-Sense Scott Governor's position on tuition hikes confusing

On Tuesday, Gov. Rick Scott, in a somewhat surprising statement, said he did not support increasing tuition for students at Florida's colleges and universities.

This position puts the governor at odds with members of his own party in the legislature who are proposing an 8 percent increase in tuition.

Sen. Evelyn Lynn, R-Ormond Beach, chair of the budget subcommittee on higher education, told the Orlando Sentinel, "I have great concern because we're cutting back on dollars, and education has been cutting back every single year for the last four years now, and to come one more year when we have to reduce money and say 'no tuition increases' is very difficult."

It appears that Lynn reflects the traditional Republican view that keeping tuition flat will likely place the burden of education costs on Florida taxpayers. She also believes that because Florida has one of the lowest tuition rates in the country, it has room to increase tuition to ease cuts elsewhere.

The governor said he believes increasing tuition would be the wrong thing to do, equating colleges to businesses that try to cut costs first before increasing prices. The problem is when the state has to balance the budget every year and has already cut a lot from higher education in Florida, something will have to give, putting taxpayers on the line.

This is not to say that we are supporting tuition hikes, because that is certainly not the case. The increasing cost of tuition each year is certainly a problem and could be remedied in other ways. We also realize, as we have argued in past editorials, that tuition increases are sometimes a necessary evil used to make up for the rising cost of education.

Perhaps we should look at the underlying reasons for annual increases in the cost of higher education before we continue to cut or increase tuition. Are standards for admission too low? Are federal subsidies driving up costs?

Regardless, what is most surprising from this budget battle is that the governor is pretty much siding with his arch nemesis, President Obama, on this issue. In his State of the Union address, the president came out strongly against further tuition increases, and Scott has echoed some of the same reasons, such as the idea that education should be affordable to everyone.

Could the governor be going against his party on the issue in order to soften his hardline image? If that is the case, we doubt it will make his opponents, many college students included, like him.

If anything, it will make him look like he's pandering to younger people for support rather than truly standing up for them against further tuition increases.

Whether or not he genuinely believes what he says, his position on this issue is probably not going to change the minds of many Floridians.

Reader response

Today's question: Has your birth control been recalled?

Wednesday's question: Would you masturbate in public?

83% YES
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SON of a GATOR

by Andre R. Frattino & Dustin G. Stower



Like "Son of a Gator" on Facebook... if you know what's good for you.

Column

Lessons outside classroom matter most

We're told we attend UF to "get an education." We go to class, write our papers, take our tests and, after four years, we earn a degree. Well, I've recently come to the conclusion that the building blocks of success have little to do with your GPA. Rather, most of my "education" comes from outside the classroom.

Entering college — with all my striving and crisply honed training — I still felt I didn't understand the qualities that led to some of the highest achievements in life: lasting happiness, success, meaning, purpose. It took me a while to realize it, but intelligence, academic performance and prestigious schools do not correlate well with gratification.

From an early age, my upbringing and high school education trained me in every obscure calculus problem, major world war and biological process. Through my formal education, my teachers co-authored the person I became, crafting me to face academic challenges. But when it came to some of the most important lessons — how to navigate the contours of conversation and how to gracefully exit one, whom to befriend and whom to dismiss — I felt utterly on my own.

The traits that make a difference are certainly not taught in a classroom: the ability to understand and empathize with people; to analyze situations and distinguish underlying patterns; to create meaningful relationships; to identify and correct personal inadequacies; to challenge or adhere to the status quo; even to construct delicate emails.

I've learned these things not under the stark fluorescent lights of the classroom, but rather in the social context of meeting new people, extracurricular gatherings, managing crises, participating in lunch and dinner dates, and just the everyday business of living on my own in the heightened reality that is college.

Let's take, for an example, the fertile social grounds of a birthday dinner. It is in these types of situations where the real life lessons are learned. There are the obvious conscious lessons, such as the ability to carry a conversation



Garrett Bruno
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and listen. But deep down, in the rich subconscious where wisdom grows and character is formed, something more is happening.

In these situations, we react to the social patterns that prevail with each unique person at the table. We can tell which clique prefers talking about shopping, and which prefers talking about

drinking. We see the prevailing currents of the social ocean — which members of the table are regretting their seating choice and which members of the table are amiably complacent.

We are all performing a series of delicate social tasks. For the span of the dinner, the members of the table are demonstrating wit, complacency, compassion, tact and timing. More so, the members are learning how to interpret one another, to gauge temperament and react accordingly, to be empathic and engaging. In short, they were learning and practicing the skills necessary to succeed in life.

So, when we get back in the classroom, it's almost as if we're getting a placebo education. The idea being that our prestigious university doesn't actually work by teaching us things. It works by giving us the impression that we've been engrained with knowledge, which gives us the insane sense of unwarranted self-confidence which then makes us monetarily successful later in life.

So, let's be real here. We're not going to remember a series of facts about public policy or engineering or whatever your major may be. We're going to forget the vast majority of everything we're tested on in college. What we're not going to forget, though, are the lessons learned outside the classroom — lessons about interpretation and interaction, life and living, and people and personality.

Garrett Bruno is a political science sophomore at UF. His column appears on Thursdays.

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

UWire

Studying abroad teaches adaptability

College is the time to be curious. We need to take advantage of our time and embark on an adventure before we lose that chance. Traveling and studying abroad, completely immersing yourself in another culture, can impact your life significantly. And if we plan to make a difference in the world as young adults, we need that international experience now more than ever.

Any period of time overseas is worthwhile, and the more time the better, because the only way one can really learn about another culture is to live in it. Last semester, I studied abroad in Italy, and I can honestly say that I did not have enough time there. Especially when learning a language, four months is barely enough time to mentally unpack. Time flew by, as it always does, but I learned more about myself over the course of those four months than I ever had before.

College is a time to embrace personal change and growth. Making the choice to travel independently can jump start this growing process. The ability to deal with change helps the traveler's transition when leaving a place he or she has become deeply accustomed to. It was very difficult for me to leave Italy — my time there felt unfinished. But because I have become accustomed to change, I am able to understand the fact that I am still young and one day I can go back. My trip was just the beginning.

I wouldn't have been able to adjust as well as I did if it weren't for the people I met. I made life-long friendships with people from all over the world. There is only experience to be gained by a venture overseas; there's really nothing to lose.

My time abroad did nothing but make me a more determined person. I feel rejuvenated to have lived in a different culture, and I think it's kind of beautiful that I and other students have the freedom to travel and live out these dreams so early in life. Most of us don't know exactly where we'll end up, but for now we might as well just enjoy the ride while we're on it.

Candice Wheeler is a columnist for the Minnesota Daily at the University of Minnesota.

Candice Wheeler
UWire

UWire

GOP candidates a string of suitors

Voters take their issues pretty seriously. There are family values, the economy, the Constitution, taxes and personal freedom, just to name a few. This is largely why the Republican Party has surged in the past few years and why 2012 was supposed to shake things up even more.

Despite all the force behind the GOP, it somehow chose incredibly unimpressive candidates. The party once known for the Reagan Revolution just doesn't have much going for it. Sure, there's the tea party, but we're still paying for a decade and a half of bad decisions.

Let's be honest, being a Republican this year is like being single in your 30s: You've had better, but you're just going to have to settle. Since Ole Miss is not only extremely conservative but also has tons of people who pretty much just want to get married, allow me to continue the analogy with the Republican options.

First, the irrelevant candidates. There's Gary Johnson, the former governor of New Mexico. The GOP invited him to a few debates but eventually your parents — the media — stopped allowing you to hang out with Johnson, probably because he's pro-marijuana. Maybe Johnson could have worked, but because the GOP started ignoring him, he's joined the Libertarian Party.

Then there's Buddy Roemer, the person whose face you've seen but literally had no idea what his name was. The former congressman from Louisiana won't accept donations greater than \$100, so he's pretty much asking to be for-

Alec Jones
UWire

gotten.

Speaking of money, there's Mitt Romney,

the loaded, charming person everyone says you should like. Romney's the Jay Gatsby of politics without all the alcohol-laden parties. That's also his downfall: Despite how popular he is, he's so secretive it's creepy.

He's been married to his high school sweetheart for 40 years, which looks good compared to Newt Gingrich. But in all honesty, Romney has had an open marriage with conservatism for decades. When you look at his stances on abortion, TARP, the Second Amendment and health care mandates, you see why his nickname is Obamaney.

Of course, there's Rick Santorum, whose continued presence no one can figure out. It's probably because he's the nice person who goes to church every week who Grandma loves but seems to have a lot of personal issues. He acts like a decent person, but it's hard to take someone seriously when they talk like there's a question mark at the end of every other sentence.

Gingrich is the crazy ex of the Republican Party that it just can't get rid of. He's a genius and would probably accomplish a lot. He was even speaker of the House — in 1994. This guy should be playing golf in Myrtle Beach, not campaigning for president there. True conservatives seem to trust him a lot more when he's not in politics, anyway.

Finally, there's Ron Paul, who's like the person without a Facebook

because of how much the media ignores the guy. He's been around forever, but his consistency is why he's especially relevant. It's his third time trying to be president, and he's still the only person who takes his vow to uphold the Constitution seriously.

He's the only candidate who treats us like adults, has never compromised his values and speaks to us with common sense. He's difficult because he's always right. Americans continue to bash Gingrich because, naturally, people hate to admit when they're wrong. Perhaps Paul's wisdom explains why he has more support from members of the military than all the other candidates combined, making the people who say his foreign policy isn't aggressive enough just look foolish.

Gingrich is the most conservative candidate, but everyone says Republicans should write him off because he's not photogenic, a smooth talker, filthy rich and because his suits look like they came from the clearance rack at J.C. Penney. Paul's no Reagan, but Americans are essentially choosing of their own free will to be like the mom in that movie "The Notebook," which I swear I've never seen.

This election is basically an arranged marriage in which we're pretty depressed about our ultimate option of Romney vs. Obama; it's not the most romantic story ever, but that's politics. At least 2012 is a wake-up call. Huntsman 2016, anybody?

Alec Jones is a columnist for the Daily Mississippian at the University of Mississippi.

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Fifth Avenue Fashion: Sporty Style for the Gator Girl

DANA BURKE
Avenue Writer

Saturdays in the Swamp haven't been the same since football season came to a close. Despite being a college town, shot-gunning beer at 10 in the morning for fun has neither the same effect nor is it as socially acceptable when there isn't a football game to follow.

Not to fear, football lovers — the Super Bowl is here! What does this have to do with fashion, you say? Well, whether you're watching the Super Bowl with friends, cheering on the Gators from the bleachers in the O'Connell Center or frequenting Southwest Recreation Center to get your workout on, your clothes make a statement. Try these athletic-influenced style tips to look stunning in any sporting situation and score big in your wardrobe.

Super Bowl Party

Regardless of your team preference this year, blue, white and red will be the choice colors. Tackle your clothing options head-on and opt for something reflective of your personal style while still supporting your boys on the field.

Even if you are the team's number-one super fan, there are other ways to show it than by painting your face, sporting a fuzzy wig in your team's colors and wearing an ill-fitting jersey. If you must display your team's name proudly across your chest, pick a shirt that still has feminine flair.

Touch by Alyssa Milano is a line of spirit apparel made for women that covers every sports team in the NFL, NHL, MLB and NBA. Her "The Coop" football T-shirt (which is available in a version for both the Patriots and the Giants) is a girly alternative to a jersey, featuring a v-neck design with a color-blocked top and sporty stripes on the sleeves.

If you're a girly girl, there's no reason why you can't wear a dress or skirt on this extra-masculine day. Use the colors of your team in sweet silhouettes and you'll have a touch of femininity that still says you're interested in the game — touch-down!

Gator Games

College football may be over, but at least we have college basketball games to look forward to until March. Stand out from the crowd in the O'Connell Center while cheering for the Gators by showing school spirit in trendy ways.

On campus, it is not unusual to see orange and blue incorporated into everyday outfits, typically in generic T-shirts from various clubs, organizations and the campus bookstore. Take your look from campus to the court by sprucing up your style from jeans and a T-shirt to something more spirited.

Instead of an average pair of jeans, try a pant, short or a skirt in a solid blue or a bright orange. If you think wearing solid orange bottoms is weird, think again. Tangerine was the hottest color trend on the runways this spring.

Paired with a simple white T-shirt, the look will remain energetic yet effortless. It's easy to go overboard when you want to show your team spirit, but by using team colors sparingly in unusual ways, you'll turn heads in a good way.

If you must stay tried and true to your favorite Florida tee, switch it up by tucking it into a skirt, or pairing it with a blazer. These simple changes will give new life to your shirt no matter how many Gator wins it has seen.

Gym Sessions

New Year's resolutions: Need extra motivation besides a Spring Break beach body? Buy yourself some cute workout wear and kick-start your exercise routine into



high gear.

To avoid looking sloppy on campus, try actual activewear instead of old T-shirts and shorts. You never know who you might run into at the gym or in class, and you won't make a great first impression in a sweat-stained T-shirt. These workout clothes are built for activity in dry fabrics that will keep you from looking like a slob.

For all of you girls guilty of confusing gym clothes with streetwear (yes, I'm talking to all the girls who live in their Nike running shorts but never actually go to the gym), please reassess your wardrobe. If you are not going to or coming from the gym, leave the activewear at home.

For the girl who has everything, go the extra mile in your workout wear by shopping designer duds. Adidas by Stella McCartney features an ultra-chic snakeskin prints. Pack a punch in your clothing choices and sweat in style.



Dana Burke / Alligator Staff

Going for a jog? Getting into the game? Sweat in style with these cute looks!



Follow two minority students trying to make it in the performance arts on page 9.

Grab a slice at Blue Highway:

There are quite a few eateries in Gainesville that everyone should know about. Discover your own Blue Highway on page 12.

"Smash" into show business!

You can't vote in NBC's latest musical show, but it's still a treat. Read all about "Smash" on page 10.

theater

UF's minority students also hope to break into showbiz

RAKSHEEN AYAZ
Avenue Writer

One of every three people in the United States is a minority, yet TV networks cast predominantly white individuals in their shows. Over the past two decades, African-Americans and Hispanics have taken on many more roles on television. Arab- and Asian-Americans are also taking on stronger roles, though at a lesser rate.

The enrollment of minority students at UF's School of Theatre and Dance program has increased by about 20 to 30 percent in 10 years.

Timothy Altmeyer, an assistant professor of the UF School of Theatre and Dance, predicted that the number of minorities in the fields of acting, modeling, singing and dancing will likely increase.

"My observation is that it is becoming easier, for nontraditional casting has become much more prominent," Altmeyer said. "In the past five years, some of our strongest breakouts, the highest persons, have been African or Latino."

Chinese-American Felix Chai, 20, a junior family youth and community sciences major, aspires to be a dancer and later a choreographer, who travels and teaches workshops. He competed in the World of Dance competition in Chicago last year

with the UF Apocalypse Dance Troupe, an all-male, hip-hop dance troupe.

For Chai, dancing is a hobby he wishes could turn into a career. He practices for about 11 hours a week and even more when nearing a competition.

"A lot of the successful dance troupes in America's Best Dance Crew are Asian," he said.

The older Asian community still focuses on studying and getting professional jobs, Chai said. "I have a strict mom who doesn't really accept the fact that I dance," Chai said. "I've never actually told my mom that I truly want to be a choreographer or dancer."

"If I ever had the opportunity to drop school, I would do it," Chai said. "You can always go back to school."

Indian-American junior advertising major Monica Desai, 20, is an actress and model. She graduated from the Lisa Maile School of Acting, Modeling and Imaging while she was in high school.

Her first job as an extra for the movie "Bring It On: In It to Win It" convinced her she should pursue a career in acting. Some of her accomplishments include being in commercials for Verizon, Nutrisystem, Healthy Start and Valencia College.

"It's funny because, although I



Photo by Alligator Staff

Look for Desai and Chai's names in lights some day soon. For now, give them your support!

am completely Indian, my look is actually considered 'ethnically ambiguous,'" she said.

Desai's family is supportive of her acting and modeling career, though her mother always pushes for her to focus on her studies.

"There are also traditional Indian people who believe that my interest in developing a career based on creativity is not realistic," Desai said.

Desai always puts classes first. She has driven to Tampa for an audition and been back in Gainesville

in time for class. However, she realizes that a successful acting career is not guaranteed.

"I constantly remind myself that I can do what they do, and better yet, I can do it with a twist of my culture."

Did a three-year hiatus help The Big Sleep's new album?

'Nature Experiments' brings a trippy sound

RACHEL GODFREY
Avenue Writer

Psychedelic electronic beats and ethereal harmonies come together in an inexplicably fitting combination in The Big Sleep's "Nature Experiments." A three-year hiatus was apparently the perfect recipe for the Brooklyn-based trio to marinate ideas and churn out a solid, full-length LP.

The Big Sleep incorporates a revival of shoegazing, a subgenre of alternative rock, which fuses separate guitar melodies and vocals into a rough and imprecise sound.

Sonya Balchandani and Danny Barria are the driving spark behind The Big Sleep, with their vocals and guitar work leading the album. They also happen to be married. The duo

found its drummer, Gabe Rhodes, through a Craigslist ad.

Inspired by classic bands like The Cure and Led Zeppelin, The Big Sleep has an eclectic sound. Sugary yet dynamic, they are reminiscent of The xx or Yeah Yeah Yeahs with a much heavier edge.

In the past, The Big Sleep simply followed where the music took it. Its tracks came off as more jam sessions than bona fide compositions. Lyrics were always an afterthought.

The album begins with "#1," an anthem-like track dominated by an intense guitar backbeat. However, a gaping lack of lyrical variety shows The Big Sleep may be falling prey to its old faults.

An eerie, almost carnival-like melody begins "Valentine," which soon morphs into an

electronic drone. Barria chimes in with near monotone, as Balchandani softly coos in the background. The simple track heats up as every element gains speed and vigor.

A trippy keyboard melody is the foundation for "Wood on the Water." A synthesizer adds a spacey touch to this warped and quirky track. It's a refreshing break from the frenzied shredding The Big Sleep is so fond of.

"Red Carpet" mesmerizes with ceaseless electronic repetition. The Big Sleep has nailed their progressive formula, settling into a composition pattern that highlights its strengths.



"Four Wishes" is a formidable track, made up of intense guitar riffs and menacing percussion lines. The Big Sleep isn't concerned with perfection here; the track is raw, gritty and wholly authentic.

"Meet Your Maker" holds nothing back, immediately launching into an electrifying fury of bass and guitar.

Nature Experiments has its bright spots, tracks that are memorable for their sheer uniqueness and passion.

The Big Sleep has every element it needs to be an unstoppable force in alternative music, but it has to rein in its tendency to squander away that talent with unruly riffs and muddled sections.

The Big Sleep has gained critical and popular acclaim alongside fellow indie artists Passion Pit and Freelance Whales.

"Nature Experiments" dropped on Jan. 31, the band's first release since "Sleep Forever" in 2008.

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television

NBC's 'Smash' shows on- and off-stage sentiment

ALYSSA HOLCOMB
Avenue Writer

The separate worlds of the on- and off-Broadway stages collide in the form of "Smash," NBC's new musical TV show that mixes elements of shows such as "Glee" and "The Voice."

The show centers on Karen Cartwright ("American Idol" alumna Katharine McPhee), a struggling actress who endures one disappointment after another, determined to find the role fit for her on the Great White Way. While Cartwright tries to find her first role, chorus girl Ivy Bell (Megan Hilty, an established Broadway performer) looks for her own time in the spotlight. Equipped with tremendous voices and curvy physiques, the duo ultimately become rivals who vie for the lead in an upcoming showstopper.

The new show-stopping idea? "Marilyn: The Musical," a flashy revue of the life of Marilyn Monroe. The latest brainchild of playwrights Julia Houston (Debra Messing

of "Will and Grace") and Tom Levitt (Christian Borle).

Add legendary producer Eileen Rand (Academy Award-winner Anjelica Huston) and loved-yet-hated director Derek Wills (Jack Davenport) and the "Marilyn" train is in full steam. Filled with impromptu demo sessions and preliminary workshops, the innovative idea collides into the lives of all involved, at times threatening to collapse the personal lives of both the actors and artists.

With a line of executive producers including Craig Zadan and Neil Meron ("Chicago," "Hairspray") and Steven Spielberg, "Smash" packs a powerful punch behind the scenes. Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the musical masterminds behind "Hairspray" and "Catch Me If You Can," work double-duty as executive producers and composers/lyricists for the show's original songs.

In the pilot, airing Feb. 6 at 10 p.m., the gradual growth of the Monroe ideal em-

SEE SMASH, PAGE 11

Tampa's music environment becomes more diverse

MICHAEL NEWMAN
Avenue Writer

You may have missed it, but not too long ago Men's Health magazine released the results of a semi-scientific study that ranked America's saddest cities based on statistics such as suicide rates, unemployment rates and the rates of households using antidepressants.

No. 1 on the list is St. Petersburg, with neighboring Tampa trailing behind at No. 4. Surely this is bad news for real estate agents and not news at all for people who have lived in the area for a major portion of their lives.

"That's crazy, man," said Rahim Samad, who has lived in Tampa for 20 years, about the survey. "But I believe it."

The DJ, producer, emcee and independent film actor/producer has drawn heavily on the city's distinctive brand of grime for his first film, "Travel Properly."

Luckily, Tampa listeners have WMNF.

It's a community-run, free-form radio station with more than 100 volunteer programmers.

Brigid Ochshorn, host of the overnight program "Freedom of Choice," has been curating a series of free outreach shows for the station at Cafe Hey in Tampa and Mojo Books and Music near USF.



Ochshorn also produces music as No Milk, a Coc-teau Twins-esque solo project driven by programmed drum patterns.

It features nagging synth and ephemeral vocals layered in delay and effects.

But that's not the only good news for electronic music fans, with Josh Plotkin keeping busy running his startup label MORE Records out of Tampa.

The records are available at morerecords.org along with free streams of songs from the releases.

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KAY BEA

Avenue Writer

My opinion is on the fence when it comes to dance clubs. On one hand, I can't get enough of them. But on the other, hitting up the club often makes me wonder what I'm doing with my life. These thoughts usually occur to me post-club as I scarf a huge, greasy slice at 2:30 a.m., drunk and kicking myself for sending "I miss you" text messages to exes.

Having sailed on the clubbing-is-still-exciting boat more than a decade ago, I have to admit that my outlook — or rather, my expectations — for these scenarios has mutated quite a bit. The awareness is similar to the superficial turn-off you feel when your significant other farts in front of you for the first time.

You still love the person, the experience isn't a deal breaker and in the back of your mind you always knew they weren't perfect, but still, some of their glow has dimmed.

So, getting back to the club, I'd like to talk to you guys about some things that went down in XS not so long ago. Holy hell, what is up with that place? It is absolutely glorious, all jokes aside.

As I made my way through the corridor toward the mouth of the dance floor, my senses were immediately hit with a sensory overload that eliminates all guards of inhibition. The music is loud, its pulsating rhythms so easy that one can't help but notice an enhancement of one's animal instincts.

One thing that always gets me off — even though I pretend to vehemently deny it — is being approached by and talking to hot, new

guys. It gets the adrenaline running a little bit, and if conversation lasts for more than five minutes, I can't help but start to wonder if the guy is a good kisser. Of course, all it takes to choke these thoughts and build a wall is a one un-sexy comment. "You know, you have a really great ass. Want to dance?" No, no I do not want to dance.

The standard excuse to leave this now-awkward situation is the good ol' ladies room. God bless the ladies room, seriously. The line is always a mile long, with some people taking a million years to do their business. Toilets stuffed with an overflow of paper and piss always make me wonder who the hell is in my company at the club. Flushing ain't that

hard. But even in this irritating congregation of women all wearing size XS, there still is a sense of camaraderie.

We give each other toilet paper if our stall is out, compliment each other's outfits and wish each other a good night. It's great.

Post-piss, I lasted in the club another hour or so, doing more of the same. I left that evening with girlfriends, happy but deflated. This is what I mean about dance clubs: I really just don't know what they're all about. I'm glad they exist, but can't explain why.

Had I left with a guy, would I have felt better? If so, does that reflect a lack in my self-esteem or an expectation of the dance club atmosphere?

Funny, but as I sit here thinking about the questions I just posed, I can't help but sense a desire to get made up and try it all over again.



Katharine McPhee jumps from 'American Idol' to 'Smash'

SMASH, from page 10

beds itself in the minds of both the creative and stage-set teams. Karen, in limbo between audition runs and waitressing shifts, thinks the blonde bombshell is her big chance to finally make it in show business. Ivy, tired of spending her nights upstage, begins a metamorphosis into the persona of the voluptuous vixen. Julia, struggling with balancing her work and family, becomes entranced by the idea.

The male counterparts complement the leading ladies with a mix of unabashed bravado and nervous indecision. Derek is argumentative and stubborn, but what he lacks in compromise he makes up for in knowing talent when he sees it.

Both sides of the cast come together in the quintessential place for all show folk: the audition room. With the creative team seated behind a table and the hopeful performers nervous and determined before them, the two worlds crash with the opening chords of "Let Me Be Your Star," an original song set as the audition piece. Both Karen and Ivy, dressed in curve-

hugging, classic Monroe sex-appeal shine in their own way.

The pilot episode is far from perfect; there are points where the story seemed to drag or became too cliché (i.e. Derek inviting Karen back to his apartment late at night to offer some "advice" before callbacks).

Yet it is scenes like the audition scene that overcome the obstacles, just like the real world of theater.

With a solid foundation and an intriguing storyline, "Smash" is poised to become a new medium for lovers of both the stage and screen to enjoy.

The Guide to Dining Out

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For information on the Guide to Dining Out, contact Kristen Strobel, Alligator Advertising, 376.4482

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Off the Main Road: Discover Blue Highway, a Pizzeria

► GRAB GOOD GRUB FROM BLUE HIGHWAY, A PIZZERIA

KIERA WRIGHT-RUIZ

Avenue Writer

"On the old highway maps of America, the main routes were red and the back roads blue. Now even the colors are changing." - William Least Heat-Moon

Blue Highway Pizzeria has been serving pizza, sandwiches and other Italian classics since 2004 in Micanopy and since 2009 in Gainesville's Tioga Town Center. Frank Ruffino, a 60-year-old Micanopy man, is the owner and founder. Sixty is the new 40, he assured.

Ruffino has been cooking professionally for 33 years. He is mostly a self-taught cook; however, he has received some unofficial training from the Culinary Institute of America. He first started cooking as a kid in Chicago, where he was born and raised. One of his first childhood memories is watching his grandmother make ravioli. His Italian heritage influenced his current cooking style.

"Everyone has good food memories," Ruffino said. "The one nice thing about this business is its immediate gratification. I can give someone a good plate of food and see the smile come on their face. You can see it in their eyes."

Before Ruffino and his wife settled in Florida, every five to seven years his family moved to a different city for better jobs.

"This was an opportunity for us to put down roots," he said. "We

had roots here when we lived here. We wanted to be part of the community."

The Blue Highway in Micanopy just kind of happened, he said. It used to be an "old redneck bar" called the Wits Inn. When he first bought the property, he ran it as a bar for about five months until he got all the permits to officially open as a pizzeria.

Ruffino originally was going to name the restaurant Pizzettas, which means "small pizzas." His father did not feel it went well with the location, so he chose another name.

Blue Highway came from William Least Heat-Moon's book "Blue Highways: A Journey into America." In the book, Heat-Moon traveled throughout America on back roads, or blue highways. He wrote about mom-and-pop places and good restaurants where he stopped, as long as he stayed off the main roads, Ruffino said.

A few months after the pizzeria opened, a local historian informed him that the restaurant was actually located on an old blue highway, U.S. 441.

"Sometimes things are meant to be," he said.

He based the menu on things he liked to eat.

"I wanted something casual," he said. "I wanted to do something everyone likes, and I wanted to do it better than most people get. People love pizza."

Ruffino's son taught him how to make pizza because he had worked in pizzerias while he was growing up. The pizza served at Blue Highway was created by their joint effort.



Photo by Kiera Wright-Ruiz

Family recipes with a family atmosphere can be found at Blue Highway.

He said a good pizza starts with a good crust.

"I've had people tell us, 'God, I've never ate crust before, but I love your crust,'" he said. "There's a lot of love and handwork going into our product here."

Every pizza is made to order. On a weekly basis, the restaurant makes more than 1,000 pizzas. On a good week the number can hit 2,000, he said.

Regulars are the core customers at the pizzeria. Some people come four times a week, he said.

Blue Highway does its best to buy local products. It also uses organic products for the salads.

The Micanopy location only sells pizza, sandwiches, salads and desserts, but Tioga has an expanded menu that also serves pasta.

He has two items named after his parents: The "Gino," which has Genoa salami, capicola, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, banana peppers and oil and vinegar on a roll, is named for his father, and "Mama Josephine Spaghetti and Meatballs" is named after his

mother.

"My mother used to make great meatballs," he said.

Ruffino has created a family environment with Blue Highway's employees. Some workers have been there since the beginning.

"I can't do this myself," he said. "If it wasn't for our employees, we wouldn't be here. That's probably one of my driving forces: not only to make people happy, but then to see our employees, who are a part of our family, go and prosper. It's a really good feeling."

music 🎵

AM/FM Music Showcase displays talented local artists

KENDRICK BROWN

Avenue Writer

On Feb. 19, :08 nightclub will host a free alternative to music festivals like Bonnaroo, Coachella and SXSW for Gainesville music enthusiasts.

Dante Lima, Jose Peruyero and Marshal Patrick first organized the AM/FM Music Showcase in 2010 to show their appreciation for a city that always supports its local bands.

In its fourth installment, AM/FM is offering an eclectic mix of more than 17 acts spanning rock, blues, folk, hip-hop, experimental and indie genres.

As longtime members of the Gainesville music scene, all three organizers understand the difficulties of gaining a following in a college town.

"It's hard to get exposure when you're fighting uphill against football and parties," Lima said.

"So we figured a one-day festival was the best way to go."

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., bands will perform 25-minute sets, alternating between two stages.

This year's showcase will feature acts

that have never performed in the showcase, such as Annie and the Canyon, plus a slew of familiar faces including Pseudo Kids, Greenland is Melting, Mindrise, Darkhorse and hip-hop artist D.P.

With AM/FM co-organizer Lima on bass, the Pseudo Kids have released two EPs and one full-length, self-titled album that they plan to follow up with an EP in March.

Vocalist Scott Kauffmann paints daunting portrayals of someone dealing with abandonment and alcohol dependency over instrumentals fit for dancing and parties on the beach.

The combination gives the listener an idea of a delusional world where Kauffmann offers the only realistic, sometimes overly dramatic, point of view.

Rapper D.P. is distinguished as the sole hip-hop act on this year's bill.

Fresh off of an East Coast tour with reggae band The Supervillians, D.P. recently released his eighth project in five years, "The Return II."

His latest offering blends sonic elements of hip-hop, country and southern rock to complement his lyrical tales about rural upbringing, heartbreak and not having

the most amicable relationship with law enforcement.

"The Return II" can be previewed on www.officialdp.com where D.P. also gives people the opportunity to set their own price for the album.

Some of Gainesville's favorite bands will use the festival as a platform for reunion.

"Danny helped us put on the first one by doing sound and essentially playing stage manager. We'd be lost without his leadership skills."

Dante Lima

AM/FM Music Showcase organizer

Hard-rock aficionado Blacksnake will give its cult following a rare performance.

Award-winning singer/songwriter Chuck Martin revives his rockabilly crew DblWiDe for the first time in nearly six years.

With a collection of such talented bands and singer/songwriters, it's obvious why the festival's motto is "About Music, For Music."

But Lima contends that the concert series wouldn't be as successful without the

sponsorship of Danny and Joy Hughes' Loosey's Longshot bar.

"Danny helped us put on the first one by doing sound and essentially playing stage manager," he said. "We'd be lost without his leadership skills. And, obviously, he's giving up his bar to help us throw the extra events, and he paid for our T-shirts."

"Danny and Joy are fantastic."

Loosey's will host a pre-party on Friday, Feb. 17, where fans will have the opportunity to meet AM/FM's acts.

The after party immediately follows Sunday's main event.

Attendance rates have steadily increased at each showcase, and the three cohorts are anticipating a packed house this showcase.

But the goal doesn't stop when the music does on Feb. 19.

Lima has hopes that the AM/FM Music Showcase will continue to expand with the support of Gainesville's music and college communities.

"We want to make it multiple days and multiple venues," Lima said.

"The dream for this has always been big, and with any luck, it will be an anticipated and loved event for years to come."

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999-1001 SW 16th Ave.
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Sun Key units starting at \$475
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4 Roommates

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Roommate Matching HERE
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BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
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9 Bicycles

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□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	C ₃	V ₄	RACK 1
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	Y ₄	D ₂	D ₂	M ₃	R ₁	4th Letter Triple RACK 2
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	H ₄	N ₁	G ₂	C ₃	RACK 3
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
A ₁	I ₁	U ₁	M ₃	M ₃	D ₂	C ₃	Double Word Score RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 222
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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CHINESE NEW YEAR

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I G D T B Z A K X A C V E S Q
O M K I (F I R E W O R K S) G E
C A T Y L I W Y U T A D R U S
Q P N I L J G P H N I R O F E
C A U Y G X L V S U A B H G S
Q D P N M E K J H N F E B C B
Z Y X V T A R U U T R G O A T
Q P O S E P O L E V N E D E R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Couplets	Fireworks	Lunar	Red envelopes
Dog	Gifts	Monkey	Snake
Dragon	Goat	Rabbit	Tiger
Duilian	Horse	Rat	

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 Concessions Ofc @ Gate 18
 5 Part-Time positions available 2-3-6-14

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SANDY'S SAVVY CHIC RESALE BOUTIQUE NOW HIRING. Great working environment. PT/FT positions available. \$8.00/hr + incentives. 352-372-1226 - 2906 NW 13th St 2-6-12-5-14

BIG LOU'S PIZZERIA
 Now hiring servers, cooks, drivers & pizza makers. Serious workers only. Apply in person 5 SE 2nd Ave. 2-14-12-10-14

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15 Services

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15 Services

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 Bonded and Insured 352-339-5158 4-4-12-53-15

16 Health Services

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING
 Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

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 ABORTION
 Free Pregnancy Test
RU-486 Available
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www.abortiongainesville.com
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 Groups forming now. 339-2199
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Magic maze Answers

CHINESE NEW YEAR

16 Health Services

Advanced Cardiac Life Support(ACLS)Basic Life Support(BLS) and CPR classes to fit your schedule.American Heart Association Card issued. Training Gators for over 15 years!! Call Cardiac One(352)494-4217. 2-15-12-25-16

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THE LINGERIE COMPANY
 Oaks Mall Plaza 2-3-5-16

18 Personals

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING
 Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

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 See why the Bible is unique.
 Your creator's love for you.
 You Tube: "Eric Ludy - The Gospel" (11:27)
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 15 min from Gainesville 468-2255
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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.

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

E ₁	V ₄	A ₁	C ₃	U ₁	E ₁	E ₁	RACK 1 =	62
D ₂	R ₁	A ₁	M ₃	E ₁	D ₂	Y ₄	RACK 2 =	70
C ₃	H ₄	A ₁	N ₁	G ₂	E ₁		RACK 3 =	12
C ₃	A ₁	D ₂	M ₃	I ₁	U ₁	M ₃	RACK 4 =	78
PAR SCORE 155-165							TOTAL	222

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Five-star Agholor spurns Florida on signing day, chooses USC

► HE SAID HE WANTED TO PLAY WITH MATT BARKLEY.

KELLY PRICE
Alligator Writer

TAMPA — The mystery that is Nelson Agholor finally came to a conclusion Wednesday afternoon.

In a ceremony at Tampa Berkeley Prep, the five-star prospect announced his commitment to USC over Florida, Oklahoma and Notre Dame.

Throughout his recruitment, Agholor had pretty much kept to himself, which only fed the hype surrounding the soft-spoken prep star.

He quietly told reporters “thank you” for coming, and he delicately cradled his four-month-old nephew before the ceremony. After his announcement, he hugged nearly every person in the gym full of family members and classmates, never letting the smile leave his face.

At the end of the day — Tuesday night, actually, according to Agholor — he decided the opportunity to catch passes from Trojans quarterback Matt Barkley was too good to pass up. He also said the receivers’ depth chart at USC is talented from top to bottom, another draw to Los Angeles.

“I’m going to be a part of a great receiving corps, and every day I’m going to battle,” he said. “They’re going to make statements. The best part about it is if I’m on the field with those guys, I’m on my way to making statements also.”

After he fielded questions from ESPN on live TV, he signed his name on his letter of intent, and the decision was final. Agholor was seen exhaling in what he said was relief.

Agholor said he enjoyed the pride and happiness he gave his parents through his recruitment. But now

that the process is over, his mindset has totally transitioned forward to college, where he said he will con-

tinue to live out his dream.

“[Last night], when I spoke to my head coach, Dominick Ciao, I just

kept on thinking about the things he’s told us through football,” Agholor said. “Before games, he has a speech ... and he always said after, ‘Dreams come true.’ And I’ve always had a dream to be a Trojan, no matter what, throughout everything.”

Given Agholor’s self-enforced low profile, it seems appropriate he chose to play football at a smaller high school, where he made plays that garnered national attention. He is the type of playmaker Florida hasn’t had in a long time, so the loss was a big one for a recruiting class low on offensive talent, a major need coach Will Muschamp said would be addressed in 2013.

Florida had been considered a longtime favorite with its in-state appeal and many of Agholor’s friends among the 2012 recruiting class. But once former offensive coordinator Charlie Weis left, Agholor’s favor for the Gators seemed to wane.

“I think [No. 2] would have been Florida,” Agholor said. “I love coach Muschamp.... We share very similar morals outside of football. He’s a great guy and I hope his team buys into everything that he says because they will be successful one day.”

Florida did, however, sign another wide receiver this week. Raphael Andrade, a relatively unknown three-star prospect out of Tallahassee, signed his letter of intent Wednesday.

Andrades and early enrollee Latroy Pittman are Florida’s only receivers in the 2012 class, joining tight ends Colin Thompson and Kent Taylor, running back Matt Jones, offensive linemen D.J. Humphries and Jessamen Dunker, and quarterback Skyler Mornhinweg on the offensive end. By contrast, Florida claimed 14 defensive commits.



Kelly Price / Alligator

Five-star wide receiver Nelson Agholor of Tampa Berkely Prep surprised Gators fans Wednesday by choosing Southern Cal over Florida at an announcement ceremony at his high school in Tampa.

END OF GREGULATION

Pointless ratings, stars system turns recruiting into crapshoot

Will Muschamp is back from the gas station.

He holds in his hand 23 scratch-offs. Some are the \$5 type with huge potential payouts, like Jonathan Bullard and D.J. Humphries. Then there are the \$4 and \$3 investments like Jessamen Dunker, Latroy Pittman and Matt Jones, who aren’t as touted but could easily lead to big bucks.

Either way, he won’t know until he gets to scuffin’.

Unlike most scratch-offs, this reveal takes a while. Muschamp says we need to wait two or three years to start evaluating a recruiting class, so let’s look back on some of UF’s past five-star shots.

In hindsight, would anybody be that bummed if Florida hadn’t landed Ronald Powell in 2010? Gary Brown in 2009? Will Hill, Carl Moore or Matt Patchan in 2008? Torrey Davis or Cam Newton — oh, wait... scratch that last one — in 2007?

Point is, the names and the stars matter significantly less than what’s revealed after the silver latex film is rubbed away.

Florida brought in 11 five-star players from 2007 to 2009,



Greg Luca
twitter: @gregluca

and only Carlos Dunlap truly panned out.

By contrast, the 2007 class alone brought in eight four-star studs — Joe Haden, Aaron Hernandez, Ahmad Black, Chris Rainey, Major Wright, Jaye Howard and Mike and Maurkice Pouncey — out of 16 recruits.

Mixed in with those success stories are the 19 four- or five-star players recruited from 2007-2010 who either transferred or were kicked off the team.

Now, obviously these are pretty small samples sizes, and I have the luxury of picking and choosing who to highlight to make my point.

But the fact remains that every year someone writes that too much importance is placed on the stars and the ratings, and every year that lesson is quickly forgotten.

So here’s your 2012 reminder: All Florida did today was

secure 23 shots in the dark. Sure, all the experts think the five-stars have a better chance to pan out than the four-stars, but at this point nobody knows.

Urban Meyer thought he assembled a defensive front for the ages in 2010 with five-stars Dominique Easley, Sharrif Floyd and Ronald Powell. But it didn’t work out right away, and it remains to be seen if any of them will reach their potential.

Why is that? Because of the way recruiting is covered.

All of these five-star kids have been praised and worshiped for two or three years at this point, and it’s impossible for that not to get to a high-school athlete’s head. The environment breeds players who walk around campus calling themselves the “Big Three” and expect success to just come naturally.

Give me a four-star with a chip on his shoulder who feels slighted by the system and wants a shot to prove himself over that entitled attitude every time.

At the end of the day, they’re all lottery tickets anyway.

Contact Greg Luca at gluca@alligator.org.



While freshman Brad Beal leads the team in defensive rebounds, Florida has struggled on the glass this season, especially in SEC play. UF plays South Carolina tonight at home. See story, page 19.

Florida’s 2012 recruiting class

What grade would you assign the Gators’ recruiting class for 2012? Vote online at alligatorSports.org.

Poll Results

Who is the Gators’ most feared shooting threat?

50% BOYNTON **30% MURPHY**
16% BEAL **4% WALKER**

64 total votes

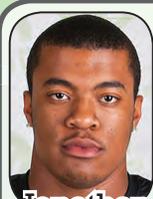
National Signing Day
2012
commits

National Signing Day 2012 is in the books, and Florida coach Will Muschamp and his staff hauled in the nation's No. 3 recruiting class. Among the highlights for the Gators are five-star defensive ends Jonathan Bullard and Dante Fowler Jr., and five-star offensive tackle D.J. Humphries.



Willie Bailey

★ **6-foot-1, 167 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 38 cornerback
★ **High school:** Hallandale
★ **Also considered:** Miami, North Carolina, South Florida
★ **Recruited by:** Aubrey Hill, Travaris Robinson



Jonathan Bullard

★ **6-foot-3, 263 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 1 defensive end
★ **High school:** Shelby, N.C., Crest
★ **Also considered:** Clemson, South Carolina
★ **Recruited by:** D.J. Durkin



Bryan Cox, Jr.

★ **6-foot-3, 247 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 37 strongside defensive end
★ **High school:** Fort Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas
★ **Also considered:** North Carolina
★ **Recruited by:** Aubrey Hill



Damien Jacobs

★ **6-foot-3, 310 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 3 JUCO defensive tackle
★ **JUCO:** Scooba, Miss., East Mississippi Community College
★ **Also considered:** Tennessee, Mississippi State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech
★ **Recruited by:** Dan Quinn



Rhaheim Ledbetter

★ **5-foot-11, 195 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 25 safety
★ **High school:** Boiling Springs, N.C., Crest
★ **Also considered:** Clemson, South Carolina, Auburn, North Carolina
★ **Recruited by:** D.J. Durkin



JaFar Mann

★ **6-foot-3, 293 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 48 defensive tackle
★ **High school:** Stone Mountain, Ga., Stephenson
★ **Also considered:** Miami, Tennessee, Auburn, Georgia
★ **Recruited by:** Travaris Robinson



Marcus Maye

★ **5-foot-11, 200 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 5 safety
★ **High school:** Melbourne Holy Trinity
★ **Also considered:** FSU, Alabama, Auburn, LSU, Miami, Michigan, South Carolina, Tennessee
★ **Recruited by:** n/a



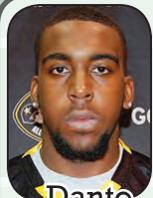
Alex McCalister

★ **6-foot-6, 223 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 26 weakside defensive end
★ **High school:** Clemmons, N.C., West Forsyth
★ **Also considered:** Georgia Tech, North Carolina
★ **Recruited by:** D.J. Durkin



Antonio Morrison

★ **6-foot-1, 209 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 10 inside linebacker
★ **High school:** Bolingbrook, Ill., Bolingbrook
★ **Also considered:** Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee
★ **Recruited by:** Bryant Young



Dante Phillips

★ **6-foot-6, 270 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 9 defensive tackle
★ **High school:** Venice
★ **Also considered:** Auburn, Miami, South Florida
★ **Recruited by:** D.J. Durkin, Dan Quinn



Brian Poole

★ **5-foot-10, 202 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 5 cornerback
★ **High school:** Bradenton Southeast
★ **Also considered:** Notre Dame, Western Kentucky, FSU, LSU, Georgia, Alabama
★ **Recruited by:** Derek Lewis, Travaris Robinson



Jeremi Powell

★ **6-foot-1, 193 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 17 outside linebacker
★ **High school:** Largo Pinellas Park
★ **Also considered:** Marshall, South Florida, South Carolina
★ **Recruited by:** D.J. Durkin, Derek Lewis



Quinteze Williams

★ **6-foot-5, 255 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 22 strongside defensive end
★ **High school:** Tyrone, Ga., Sandy Creek
★ **Also considered:** Georgia, Tennessee, FSU
★ **Recruited by:** Travaris Robinson, Dan Quinn



Dante Fowler Jr.

★ **6-foot-3, 261 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 3 weakside defensive end
★ **High school:** St. Petersburg Lakewood
★ **Also considered:** FSU, USC
★ **Recruited by:** Derek Lewis



Jessamen Dunker

★ **6-foot-2, 320 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 5 offensive guard
★ **High school:** Boynton Beach
★ **Also considered:** Auburn, FSU, Georgia, Alabama, LSU, Miami
★ **Recruited by:** Aubrey Hill



Austin Hardin

★ **5-foot-10, 204 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 11 kicker
★ **High school:** Atlanta, Ga., Marist School
★ **Also considered:** Auburn, Tennessee
★ **Recruited by:** n/a



D.J. Humphries

★ **6-foot-6, 271 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 1 offensive tackle
★ **High school:** Charlotte, N.C., Mallard Creek
★ **Also considered:** Tennessee, Auburn
★ **Recruited by:** Frank Verducci



Matt Jones

★ **6-foot-2, 213 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 15 running back
★ **High school:** Seffner Armwood
★ **Also considered:** Auburn, Alabama, Georgia, Oregon, Southern Cal, Notre Dame
★ **Recruited by:** Brian White, Derek Lewis



Skyler Mornhinweg

★ **6-foot-3, 190 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** N/R quarterback
★ **High school:** Philadelphia, Pa., St. Joseph's
★ **Also considered:** Penn State, Stanford, Tennessee
★ **Recruited by:** Brent Pease



Latroy Pittman

★ **6-foot-0, 195 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 32 wide receiver
★ **High school:** Citra North Marion
★ **Also considered:** FSU, Notre Dame, Georgia, Alabama
★ **Recruited by:** n/a



Kent Taylor

★ **6-foot-5, 225 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 1 tight end
★ **High school:** Land O' Lakes
★ **Also considered:** LSU, Alabama, Penn State, Georgia, FSU
★ **Recruited by:** Charlie Weis, Derek Lewis



Colin Thompson

★ **6-foot-4, 252 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 6 tight end
★ **High school:** Warminster, Pa., Archbishop Wood Catholic
★ **Also considered:** Wisconsin, Boston College
★ **Recruited by:** Charlie Weis, Derek Lewis



Raphael Andrades

★ **6-foot, 190 pounds**
★ **Ranking:** No. 99 wide receiver
★ **High school:** Tallahassee Lincoln
★ **Also considered:** Arkansas, Stanford
★ **Recruited by:** Aubrey Hill

Compiled by Kelly Price
- All rankings and photos from Rivals.com

RECRUITING

Howard makes last-minute decision

TOM GREEN

Alligator Staff Writer

MIRAMAR — Tracy Howard could never really see himself playing at Miami.

For most of his recruitment, the five-star Miramar High corner was convinced he was going to Florida.

"I never gave Miami a chance," Howard said. "I always told myself, 'Man, I don't want to go to Miami.' I never gave them a chance and never tried to get down there. When the coaches called me, I was like, 'I'm not talking to them, I don't want to go to Miami because I wanted to go away and experience the college feeling.'"

That all changed with a visit to Coral Gables during the weekend, and Howard, the nation's No. 1 cornerback according to Rivals.com, chose the Hurricanes over the Gators on Wednesday morning.

The talented 5-foot-11, 175-pound defensive back wasn't even planning on taking a visit to Miami, the first school to offer him a scholarship. He had already taken four of his five official visits: Florida, FSU, West Virginia and USC. His last was supposed to be to LSU.

That is, until the middle of January when former Florida wide receivers coach Billy Gonzales, who reportedly left Gainesville on bad terms two years ago for an assistant coaching position at LSU, left the Tigers for the offensive coordinator job at Illinois.

When that happened, Howard canceled his LSU visit and decided to check out Miami.

"To be honest, I went down to the Miami visit with a closed mind," Howard said. "I was like, 'I'm locked down, I'm going to Florida.'"

But on Saturday, the second day of his official visit to UM, Howard had a change of heart and opened up to the idea of becoming a Hurricane. He told Miramar High teammate Malcolm Lewis, a UM oral commit since November, that night he knew Miami was the right place for him.

"It felt like I was in another world," Howard said. "When I seen that, I was like, 'Why not do it in my city with a group of guys I truly love?'"

"To be honest, I went down to the Miami visit with a closed mind."

Tracy Howard

UM cornerback

Despite feeling at home in Coral Gables and notifying coaches Tuesday, Howard wasn't completely sure of his decision until Wednesday morning, just hours before he publicly announced in front of a packed Miramar auditorium and on national television.

He weighed his options and looked at the opportunity each school presented, including the chance to play right away.

Howard said UM presented a better opportunity to see the field immediately. At UF, he would have to battle Marcus Roberson, Cody Riggs, Jaylen Watkins and four-star signee Brian Poole for a spot in the Gators' youthful secondary.

"You don't ever want to feel like you let anybody down," Howard said, "but at the end of the day it's a business decision, and I have to do what's best for me."

Contact Tom Green at tgreen@alligator.org.

UF near top of SEC, last in rebounding

JOHN BOOTHE

Alligator Staff Writer

Billy Donovan entered Southeastern Conference play for the 16th time in his career with the belief that he had coached worse rebounding teams.

Four years ago, Donovan said his frontcourt consisted of 6-foot-8 Dan Werner at power forward and 6-foot-8 Alex Tyus at center, with 6-foot guard Walter Hodge often used at small forward. That 2008-2009 team nursed its way to the league's worst rebounding average and third-lowest rebounding percentage in the SEC.

"I don't feel like personnel-wise like it was several years ago, where we were totally overwhelmed and all I could think was, 'What are we going to do to protect the post here? Because if we are just going to play one-on-one, we will be overwhelmed.' I don't feel that way," Donovan said two days after Florida's SEC-opening loss to Tennessee.

Six games into 2012's conference slate, the team previously considered his poorest rebounding squad has fresh competition.

The No. 14 Gators (17-4, 5-1 SEC), who haul in a rebound on a league-worst 44.9 percent of their opportunities, also rank last in the conference with just 29.2 rebounds per game. Even the SEC's current last place team, South Carolina (9-11, 1-5), which UF hosts tonight at 9, is able to garner a rebound 50 percent of the time.

"With (Patric) Young and Will Yeguete and (Erik) Murphy, I'm not saying that we're the best rebounding team in the league, but I feel comfortable, like we can hold our own on the backboard," Donovan said in early January. "I think we

can do that, that the commitment is there to do it."

While the 6-foot-9 Young, a sophomore center, has been held out of the Gators' starting lineup in each of their SEC games with a right ankle injury, freshman Brad Beal was skeptical that the big man's absence was the main reason for Florida's rebounding woes.

Beal, a 6-foot-3 guard, is leading UF with 102 defensive rebounds this season — 13 more than Young.

"That's not just necessarily because Pat's out," Beal said. "I'm a three man; I'm the biggest guard, so I have to fight and get rebounds as well. I can't just leave the big guys down there hanging, so I really just try to put my body in place and just try to rebound as best as I can."

Though Florida has won five straight despite Young's limited minutes, the team has also been

out-rebounded four times during that stretch. In each game, the ranked Gators have entered as the favorite, yet have trailed by halftime twice.

A week ago, Ole Miss held a 16-point first-half lead helped by a 17-8 advantage on the boards. The Rebels would go on to out-rebound the Gators 41-23. On Saturday, Mississippi State won the glass by a 34-26 margin.

"We got out-rebounded in both games, but I think we battled," Murphy said. "We are a smaller team size-wise but you just got to keep fighting in the game and I think we'll be alright."

Contact John Boothe at jboothe@alligator.org.



Beal

Gators miss on Williams, top targets

JOE MORGAN

Alligator Staff Writer

DAYTONA BEACH — The Gators lost one of their own on National Signing Day in four-star defensive end Leonard Williams.

The Daytona Beach Mainland defensive end passed on Florida — his favorite team growing up — and committed to Southern California on Wednesday morning.

"I always wanted to go to Florida ever since I was little — that's been my team forever," Williams said. "But after I experienced all of this, I just really found out what was best for me."

Williams' decision comes on the heels of a week marred by the stress of family issues.

His maternal grandmother slipped into a coma this week.

"It was hard because I had a lot of stuff going on, like family problems

going at the same time," Williams said. "I had to take time to do family stuff and [recruiting] stuff."

When asked if his grandmother would approve of his decision to attend USC, Williams said, "Yeah. Yeah, she would love it."

Williams was one of eight targets that the Gators failed to sign on Wednesday.

Notable five-stars that escaped Will Muschamp's grasp were receiver Nelson Agholor and cornerback Tracy Howard, who committed to USC and Miami, respectively.

Florida seemingly whiffed on five-star linebacker Josh Harvey-Clemons also, who announced his intentions to attend Georgia Wednesday morning.



Williams

However, an ESPN report stated the Harvey-Clemons family wanted him to pick UF and as of press time, he has not yet sent a letter of intent.

Muschamp made waves when he visited Clemons' church in Valdosta, Ga., making a donation that Clemons' grandfather said "surprised" the collection plate, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

In addition to the aforementioned five-star recruits, UF also missed out on improving its offensive line depth, losing four-star tackle Avery Young to Auburn and three-star tackle Jake Meador to Wisconsin.

Despite bringing in only five commits at wide receiver, halfback, and offensive line — three of Florida's thinnest positions — Muschamp is not concerned with the recruits he missed out on.

"No," he said. "We'll be fine."

Contact Joe Morgan at joemorgan@alligator.org.

Florida addresses depth concerns on both lines with 2012 class

RECRUITING, from page 1

about the guys we've got in that group."

Florida finished 40th in rushing defense last season, but the team was gashed considerably during four straight losses in October to Alabama, LSU, Auburn and Georgia, allowing an average of 201 yards on the ground. Conversely, the Gators couldn't get the run game going on offense during those games, averaging just 43.8 yards during the losing streak despite a per-game mark of 187.1 in all others.

Countless times, Muschamp has pointed to the Southeastern Conference being a line-of-scrimmage league, and countless times, he pointed to his team's struggles in that area as the catalyst for a disappointing

season. Florida had to crosstrain players at multiple positions along the defensive line, and that lack of depth certainly played into the defensively heavy nature of this year's class.

"We really struggled up front with our depth on the defensive line," Muschamp said. "We really needed to address that. On the offensive line, we really got everybody back. We added two offensive linemen, certainly that will be more of a focus next year."

Adding to the bulk in this class, Muschamp secured commitments from the No. 1 offensive lineman, five-star tackle D.J. Humphries, as well as four-star Boynton Beach guard Jessamen Dunker, who comes to UF with SEC-ready size at 6-foot-4, 320 pounds. Both have enrolled early and will

participate in spring practice, something Muschamp said would be a distinct advantage toward seeing the field this fall.

"Them being able to go through 15 days of spring practice is going to be huge," he said. "They're both two very good, big athletes who move very well, great feet, change of direction, very flexible, can bend, both powerful guys."

The Gators also added two of the top tight ends in the nation with the commitments of Kent Taylor and Colin Thompson, a powerful wide receiver in four-star Latroy Pittman and a solid running back in four-star Matt Jones of Seffner Armwood.

They also improved an already deep defensive back seven with the grabs of four-

star cornerback Brian Poole, four-star safety Marcus Maye and four-star linebackers Antonio Morrison and Jeremi Powell.

With an impressive haul, Muschamp's first full class has drawn rave reviews, placing in the top five of every major recruiting service's rankings. Still, Muschamp said he realizes that stars and rankings mean little once the pads are strapped on.

"We'll know about this class in two or three years," he said. "I'll tell you the same thing I did last year: Football is a developmental game, and you got to develop the players. ... It's not about winning in February. It's about winning in the fall and developing your football team and addressing your needs, and I think we've done that."

Contact Matt Watts at mwatts@alligator.org.

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