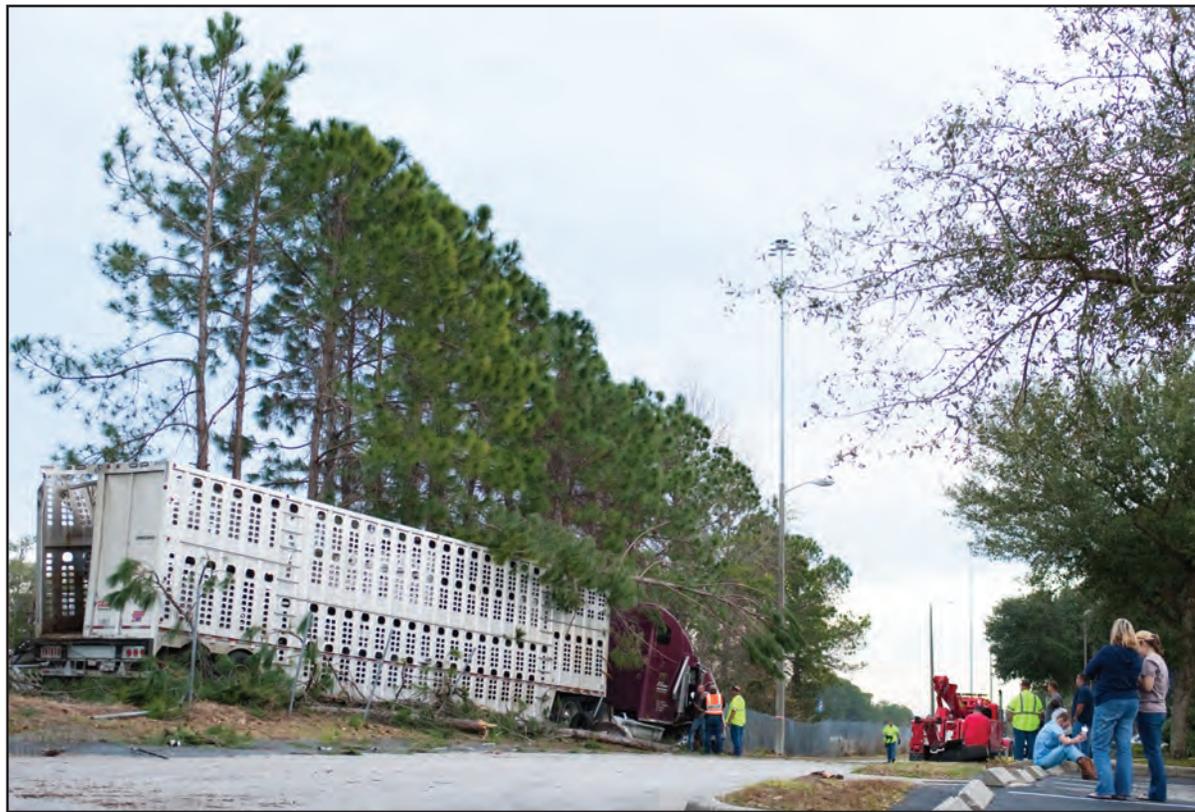


Hawthorne
 taxidermist
 James Wood
 knows his stuff.
 Check out the
 photo story on
 page 19.



I-75 drivers encounter crash, livestock near Gainesville



David Carr / Alligator Staff

A semitruck carrying cattle ran off the road on Interstate 75 in Gainesville on Saturday afternoon. The crash caused northbound and southbound traffic to slow down while officials gathered escaped cows. One person was treated for injuries and taken to Shands at UF. By 5 p.m., traffic reopened for all lanes.

► COWS RAN ON THE ROAD AFTER ESCAPING FROM SEMITRUCK IN ACCIDENT.

CHRIS ALCANTARA
 Alligator Staff Writer

A semitruck transporting cattle crashed on Interstate 75 south of West Newberry Road, causing several hours of traffic delays Saturday afternoon.

The incident happened at about noon.

Travis Carr, a 20-year-old Okeechobee resident, was driving southbound in his semitruck when one of the truck's front wheels blew out, according to a Florida Highway Patrol accident report.

The truck veered right and struck a guardrail, according to the report.

It continued south over the road shoulder until it crashed into a tree line near Mile Marker 387.

FHP officers and Alachua County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the crash.

They redirecting highway traffic while emergency medical

personnel worked to clear the road.

Officials also chased after several cows that escaped from the truck.

An ambulance took Carr to Shands at UF for treatment.

His passenger, Bryan Martin, 50, of Okeechobee, suffered minor injuries, according to the report.

For several hours, traffic on I-75 slowed down.

At 12:30 p.m., Gainesville/Alachua County Smarttraffic reported that northbound traffic was backed up about 9 miles south from the crash to Payne's Prairie.

Southbound traffic stretched 12 miles past exit 400 in Alachua.

By 5 p.m., officials reopened all southbound lanes after clearing the road and gathering all the escaped cattle with the exception of one animal.

It was shot after it became aggressive, according to published reports.

Contact Chris Alcantara at calcantara@alligator.org.

CAMPUS

Mobile app to offer UF students snappier nighttime rides

COLLEEN WRIGHT
 Alligator Writer

UF students who need a ride after dark can now make a request with a new smartphone application, SNAP UF.

The free app, which was released Dec. 6 by the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol, shows where vans are in real time on a map and gives alerts when a van is approaching.

"It's a responsibility we are giving students, that they should take advantage of their transportation services."

Christian Arango
 director of Nightlife Navigators

The app is available for download on iOS and Android platforms, said UPD officer Gregory Castronover, but students will not be able to make ride requests for a few weeks.

Castronover, who runs the day-to-day opera-

tions of SNAP, said the GPS technology is still being installed into SNAP vans.

The app is sponsored by UF Student Government, Transportation and Parking Services and University Police.

Developing the app and its updates, which cost about \$10,000, is funded by student parking tickets.

Student government agency Nightlife Navigators approached Totuit, a mobile platform development company based in UF's Innovation Hub, with the idea of creating an app in summer 2012.

"It's a responsibility we are giving students, that they should take advantage of their transportation services," said Cristian Arango, director of Nightlife Navigators and a 20-year-old history and political science junior. "It's funded by students, for students."

"We hope it's gonna make it a lot easier for everybody — students and employees," Castronover said.

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.

Innovation Academy students start school

► THEY WILL ATTEND SPRING AND SUMMER SESSIONS.

KELCEE GRIFFIS and JENSEN WERLEY
 Alligator Contributing Writers

As classes start, a group of about 330 UF students will not only step into their first college classrooms ever, they will make history for themselves and their school.

As part of a new program to boost enrollment and integrate entrepreneurship into traditional coursework, Innovation Academy students will take on-campus classes Spring through Summer

and enjoy "summer break" during the Fall semester, when they can take online courses, study abroad or do internships.

Students in the program can choose from seven colleges and about 29 majors — ranging from plant science to political science — but will all complete a base curriculum, which focuses on innovation and creativity skills that apply in every field.

In UF President Bernie Machen's Friday morning address to welcome the Innovation Academy Class of 2016 to campus, he praised students for their participation in an unprecedented program.

He said Innovation Academy is

SEE ACADEMY, PAGE 4

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High Springs therapy horses bring comfort to Newtown
 Three miniature horses made the trip to visit the town, pg 9.

Food truck on campus expands Latin food menu
 Nachos, black bean tacos and quesadillas are new items, pg 15.



Boynton finds shooting stroke in win:
 Senior guard Kenny Boynton ended a rough shooting stretch on Sunday, tying a career high with 28 points in UF's win against Yale, pg. 33.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Floridance's Spring auditions

Auditions will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center dance studio located near Gate 2. Check-in is at 6:45 p.m. Dance styles will include ballet and contemporary.

Improv company auditions

Auditions for a new improv group, "Much Ado about The Doris," aka "MAD about The Doris" will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday at The Doris, 716 N. Main St. Some improv experience would be good for those auditioning, but all are welcome. The audition will consist of improv exercises and games. The company will perform around the community. For more information, call Sidney Homan at 352-378-9166 or email shakes@ufl.edu.

OAS Peer Mentor applications available

The Office of Academic Support (OAS) offers academic and personal enrichment services to UF students. It primarily serves first-generation students and students considered disadvantaged economically, educationally or culturally. OAS Peer Mentors play a key role in its goal to provide an encouraging and welcoming environment for incoming students. Peer Mentors help incoming first-generation students transition from high school to college. Applications are due at 5 p.m. Jan. 25 in Little Hall, Room 311. Visit www.oas.aa.ufl.edu/student-positions.aspx to access the application and browse a detailed description of duties.

76-year-old man trapped hunting for lottery ticket

AMSTERDAM — What are the odds?

A 76-year-old man trapped himself in an underground waste-paper container in Amsterdam after he clambered in to hunt for a lottery ticket.

Police said in a statement the elderly man managed to open the container and climb in Thursday because he feared he had tossed out a lottery ticket along with other used paper.

FORECAST

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 75/59	PARTLY CLOUDY 80/62	CLOUDY 79/59	CLOUDY 78/56	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/56

Passers-by heard him calling for help and alerted the police, who freed him with the help of firefighters.

The bad news? The man didn't find his lottery ticket.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mass. cops caught egging superior officer's home

NEWTON, Mass. — Massachusetts police responding to reports of teenagers tossing eggs at a house last month got quite a surprise when they tracked down the suspects.

A department spokesman tells The MetroWest Daily News the three people who egged the house in Framingham early Dec. 11 were fellow law enforcement officers serving with the Newton police. They were off duty at the time.

They told Framingham police the egging incident was "a prank, a joke between friends."

The homeowner is a Newton police sergeant and their superior officer. He says the matter is being handled internally.

No charges were filed, and the Newton officers were not publicly identified.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twin mothers in Ohio give birth the same day

AKRON, Ohio — Aiden and Donavyn didn't wait until New Year's Day to come screaming into the world, but the circumstances of their births are still pretty special: The babies were born about two hours apart to Ohio mothers who are identical twins.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports that the 19-year-old mothers — Aimee and Ashlee Nelson — weren't raised to do things alike and did not plan the births to come at the same time. In fact, their due dates were about a week apart.

Aimee's son, Donavyn Scott Bratten, was born just after noon on the last day of 2012. Ashlee's son, Aiden Lee Alan

Dilts, made his appearance at about 2 p.m.

They were delivered by the same doctor at Summa Akron City Hospital.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cat that spent a week in Mass. tree found

MARION, Mass. — A stray cat that spent at least a week stuck in a Massachusetts tree before plunging 80 feet to the ground and fleeing has been found, and all things considered, appears to be in good health.

A Marion Animal Hospital veterinarian said Wednesday it's "unbelievable" that the cat dubbed Fortunate has just a couple of pulled muscles and a possible parasitic infection.

The cat was spotted in a Rochester, Mass., tree on Christmas Eve. Several rescue attempts failed before firefighters cut the branch it was perched on Sunday. Cat shelter founder Pam Robinson finally trapped the skittish feline on Tuesday.

Robinson tells The Standard Times she will keep the cat for a few weeks so it can regain weight before putting it up for adoption.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Got something going on?

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

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



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.. THIS WEEK *in* GAINESVILLE ..

Jan. 5, 1968: Fightin' Sam, a personal friend of Albert the Alligator, gains fame for being dogged crazy about the Gators. Sam, a Boxer, runs with the football team during practice and wears his own personalized jacket. He is owned and trained by Sarge Bannister, football team equipment manager. Sam sometimes gets leftover meat from the team. Rumor has it he can push a football with his nose for a touchdown.

Jan. 8, 1975: A majority of UF professors sampled in a random telephone survey by the Alligator favor a return to the semester system in place of the quarter system. Professors from almost all of UF colleges said they would prefer going back to the semester system. Chemistry professor Paul Tarrant was at UF when it had a semester system and said it should have never gone to quarters. "The student had a longer time to meditate and think about the

material being presented him," Tarrant said.

Jan. 10, 2000: UF officials said they're breathing a sigh of relief on a job well done after years of preparation for Y2K. Robin Marin, a UF computer applications coordinator, said most of the problems relating to a systems-wide computer crash are gone. Marin said the money spent on the project was beneficial. "Not one penny or one minute was wasted on Y2K preparations," Marrin said.

Jan. 11, 2010: Gainesville's Queer Activist Coalition, Stand Up Florida and several advocacy organizations marched down Northwest 37th Street, hoisting a rainbow banner and signs calling for tolerance and acceptance. The group of about 40 stood across from signs planted on the property of Dove World Outreach Center that had messages such as "Homo leads to Hell." They waved banners, planted rainbow flags next to the church's signs and altered signs to read "God loves youR but I..."

— JENNA LYONS



File Photo

Members of the Queer Activist Coalition and Stand-Up Florida stood outside the Dove World Outreach Center on Northwest 37th Street on Sunday to protest its messages.

Gator fans show low interest in Sugar Bowl

► UF SOLD ABOUT 7,000 STUDENT TICKETS.

KATIE AGOSTIN

Alligator Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — In a sea of red outside of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, five Gators fans started to chant, "It's great to be a Florida Gator!"

Seconds later, University of Louisville fans drowned them out with their cheers, which had become common in New Orleans leading up to the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

Despite being outnumbered prior to the game, 25-year-old Oviedo resident Kristyna Adams said she was confident Florida fans were ready to cheer on the Gators.

"I think that Gator fans showed up in abundance today," Adams said. "Last night we were a minority. But today, Gator fans have risen, and we're here to cheer."

More fans may have showed up on the day of the game, but it wasn't enough.

The university sold about 7,000 of its allotted 17,500 tickets.

The total attendance on Wednesday was 54,178 — the lowest Sugar

Bowl attendance since 1939.

Some thought the high cost of the tickets deterred students from making the trip. The university sold tickets for \$102 to its students — only about \$50 cheaper than general public tickets.

"It shocked me how expensive it was for students," said 21-year-old biology junior Cole McCarty.

Still, others said that Louisville fans outnumbered Florida fans because the Sugar Bowl isn't viewed as a big game to them anymore.

"With the Gator fans' strong history, this isn't enough for them anymore."

Charles Lang

University of Louisville alumni

This was the Gators' ninth Sugar Bowl and the Cardinals' first.

"With the Gator fans' strong history, this isn't enough for them anymore," 56-year-old University of Louisville alumni Charles Lang said before the game. "They wanted to be in the national championship and playing a bigger team. Stranger things have happened, but if we were to upset Florida, that'd mean a big deal to us."

Contact Katie Agostin at kagostin@alligator.org.

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Sig Ep's UF chapter closed for misconduct

JULIA GLUM
Alligator Staff Writer

UF's chapter of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity — often called "Sig Ep" — was closed last month.

The fraternity's national board of directors withdrew the charter of the Florida Alpha chapter, according to a Dec. 10 statement from executive director Brian C. Warren Jr.

"The University of Florida is investigating the chapter for numerous violations of the University's code of conduct," Warren said in the statement.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the chapter's closing was not the result of a single incident. There are multiple charges pending, she said, including hazing.

Sikes provided a statement that de-

clared the university's support of the board's decision.

"We understand it was a difficult one to make and look forward to the fraternity returning at some point in the future," the statement read.

UF's Sig Ep membership numbers have fluctuated over the past year, according to the chapter's now-removed Manpower page on the national website. In Spring 2012, the fraternity had 141 members total, but started Fall with 57.

"When the cultural issues within a chapter conflict with our values and are too deeply rooted to effect change, we have no other option but to withdraw the chapter's charter," Warren said.

Contact Julia Glum at jglum@alligator.org.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Statewide initiative pushes for priority in higher education

SAMANTHA SHAVELL
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida universities across the state have launched an initiative to show that the state university system is a priority.

Aim Higher is a statewide initiative by university students to raise awareness of the positive impact increased funding has for higher education in Florida.

Student Body President Tj Villamil said the initiative is already on its way to making the state understand the importance of higher education.

In early December, he was in Tallahassee with other university student leaders and presidents. The group presented a plan to the state legislature, asking them for \$118 million in exchange for no tuition increases this year.

"The universities have never been this united," he said.

Gov. Rick Scott issued a statement after the

presentation, applauding the universities' position on not increasing tuition.

"We know Florida families want the best value possible from our higher education system, which means we have to make advanced degrees more affordable and more connected to students' ability to get a great job when they graduate," Scott said. "We are pleased to share this important goal with many of Florida's finest higher education leaders who are committed to holding the line on tuition. We look forward to working closely with them as we put together a proposed budget and other policies for the upcoming legislative session."

Villamil said this is part of the action. In the meantime, he said, Aim Higher will have a rally on Burlington Plaza in the next week to raise awareness about it on UF's campus.

"We're an investment, not an expense," Villamil said.

Contact Samantha Shavell at sshavell@alligator.org.

IA students can attend Fall football games with student ID and ticket

ACADEMY, from page 1

a wise choice for students because it addresses the student debt problem. It offers flexible scholarship payment options and leverages the rising popularity of online education. It also makes room for qualified students to attend UF who otherwise would have been turned away because of limited Fall classroom space, he said.

Many of the classes offered teach entrepreneurial skills to encourage students to start their own companies or be more innovative in their fields. The program allows students to dedicate their entire Fall semester to gaining experience, at a time when most students their age can't because they are in classes.

However, students have complained that when they applied to UF, they had an option to say whether they were interested in the Innovation Academy.

Many who selected "yes" said they felt they were then automatically placed in the program without actually wanting to be in it.

Jessie White, 25, the student resource specialist graduate assistant for the program, said that was not the case. Each student chose to be there.

"There were a few challenges when building the program, and we are addressing each one," White said. "The main chal-

lenge is getting the students to understand the program and the Spring/Summer schedule."

Another complaint among students is that there are not many majors or colleges to choose from. White said they are working on adding more majors for future classes.

A further concern is that students can't participate in many of the Fall activities, the major one of those being football. However, White says that is not true.

"That is actually a misconception. After their first semester as a student, Innovation Academy students can come to football games," she said. In Fall 2013, all of these students can attend the games with a valid student ID and ticket.

Innovation Academy students were not eligible to participate in this past season's student ticket lottery because they weren't registered students until this Spring.

Despite some students' complaints, there are many who want to be in the program or who look forward to its benefits.

"I chose the Innovation Academy because it's different," said 19-year-old anthropology freshman Marielis Nieves. "It offered me opportunities other students don't get, like during the Fall, I can do internships or study abroad."

Many parents are also excited their students are participating in the program.

Arlene Nieves, 45, and Henry Nieves,

47, are particularly proud of their daughter, Marielis, who will be one of the first students to ever graduate from this program. Arlene Nieves, a

Georgia Bulldogs fan, is even becoming a Gator for her daughter.

"After all," she said, "she is making history."



Javier Edwards / Alligator

UF President Bernie Machen addresses students at the convocation of the Innovation Academy in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Friday.

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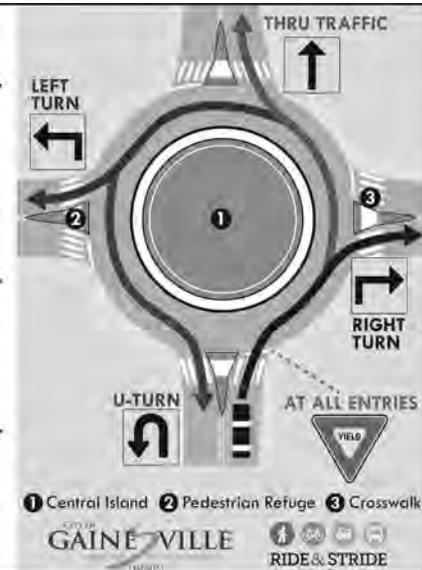
As a cyclist:

- If comfortable riding in traffic, merge into the entry lane before the shoulder or bike lanes end;
- Communicate your intentions to drivers by pointing to your destination;
- If uncomfortable riding in traffic, you may use the access ramps to the sidewalk and cross at the designated crossings.

As a pedestrian:

- Stay on designated walkways at all times and cross only at the marked crosswalks;
- Never cross to the central island!
- Be alert, watch for cars and cyclists!

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GPD, ASO station officers at elementary schools in Newtown wake

► EACH ADDED OFFICERS TO 12 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Writer

As Alachua County students resumed classes Thursday, city and county law enforcement agencies began stationing officers at local elementary schools to provide extra security for the new year.

The additional staffing was in response to concerns surrounding the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Newtown, Conn., which left 26 people dead.

Gainesville Police added officers to 12 elementary schools across the city, said GPD spokesman Ben Tobias.

Tobias said GPD wants to keep officers at the schools for at least six weeks, but that will depend on funding and the number of officers available to work.

During that time, Gainesville Police will staff schools with uniformed officers through temporary or overtime reassignments, Tobias said.

"It's one of those balancing acts," he said, adding that staffing officers could strain other areas of the department.

The addition of 12 officers would be a 4 percent increase to

the 300-member police force, which would cost GPD about \$1 million per year, Tobias said.

"In a perfect world, where funding isn't even an issue, this is what we'd like to do," he said. "But that's

a huge, huge number for us."

In a similar move, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office also sta-

tioned deputies at 12 elementary schools across the county Thursday, according to an ASO news release.

The sheriff's office has uniformed officers at the following elementary schools: Alachua, Archer, Chiles, Hidden Oak, Idylwild, Irby, Lake Forest, Meadowbrook, Newberry, Shell, Waldo and Wiles.

The staffing will be funded through the sheriff office's current budget.

Representatives from GPD, ASO, Alachua Police, High Springs Police and other local law enforcement agencies formed a joint work group with Alachua County Public Schools to create a more long-term solution, according to an Alachua County Public Schools press release.

The school district said the group will also work with local mental health experts to seek more state support for mental health services.

Tobias said he hopes the temporary plan to station officers in elementary schools will turn into a permanent solution.

GPD Chief Tony Jones said his department is committed to students' safety.

"Protecting these children needs to be our top priority," he said in a statement. "They are our most vulnerable citizens."

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Deputy Jackson of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office interacts with students at lunch on Friday at the Meadowbrook Elementary cafeteria during his second day of being stationed at the school.

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Opinions

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

Editorial

BBC in the USA: 'Downton' is your life

An overbearing mother.
Class warfare.
Spats with loved ones and dramatic relationships.
Sound familiar?
It's the basic skeleton of any episode of "Downton Abbey," but they're also signs of a new semester.
Welcome to the Spring semester of 2013. It's going to be a doozy.

It may not be as fancy as life at Downton, and you may not drink as much tea, but it will rival the series in drama and hard work. Please don't worry. Because this piece contains no spoilers for the third season of "Downton," which only just started airing here in the United States.

Take the "upstairs," the family. You have the Dowager Countess making demands and funny quips. She sounds like everyone's mom or grandmother, especially when big exams roll around. You want to please them, but you also totally know better. Get used to it.

Also, you don't know better.

There's Mary and Matthew, on-again, off-again lovers who finally seem to have settled down long enough to get serious. They're the Ross and Rachel of 1920. They're also exactly like those two people in your group of friends who can't decide if they're in a relationship or not, or if they're on a break. Get used to it.

Lady Sybil, the younger daughter at Downton, wants to wear pants! That's a new idea back then. These days, we're lucky to see a celebrity wearing pants at all. Sybil's a pretty progressive lady for her time, so follow her example and make some daring wardrobe choices of your own.

Don't forget about Edith, the one sister at Downton who just can't seem to find a man. Let's not talk about her because we'll just start to pity her and no woman wants that. She's plucky enough that she'll pick herself up by her bootstraps.

Then there's the "downstairs" crew: a whole host of people who cook and clean all day.

Take Mrs. Patmore, for example. She's a tough lady who takes no funny business. Let's all try to be like her during this semester. But maybe be a little more understanding than she can be at times.

Don't be like Thomas. Now, he's a pretty misunderstood character, but he has a very mean streak in him. He's the same as O'Brien, a woman who will stoop to low places to get back at people and get whatever she wants.

Instead, be like Branson, the handsome and charming chauffeur — who also happens to be a socialist. We're not saying to become socialists, so put your email urge away. He's just a man who knows what he wants and to be treated fairly.

Start this new semester with your best foot forward. That's all we're trying to say.

The characters on "Downton Abbey" go through a ton of emotional turmoil in nearly every episode. They literally go through war. So, with the new season coming to America this week, take it to heart.

It's a metaphor for your own life, even though the series takes place a hundred years ago. If they can make it through World War I, you can make it through the Spring semester at UF.

Welcome back. Welcome home.

Reader response

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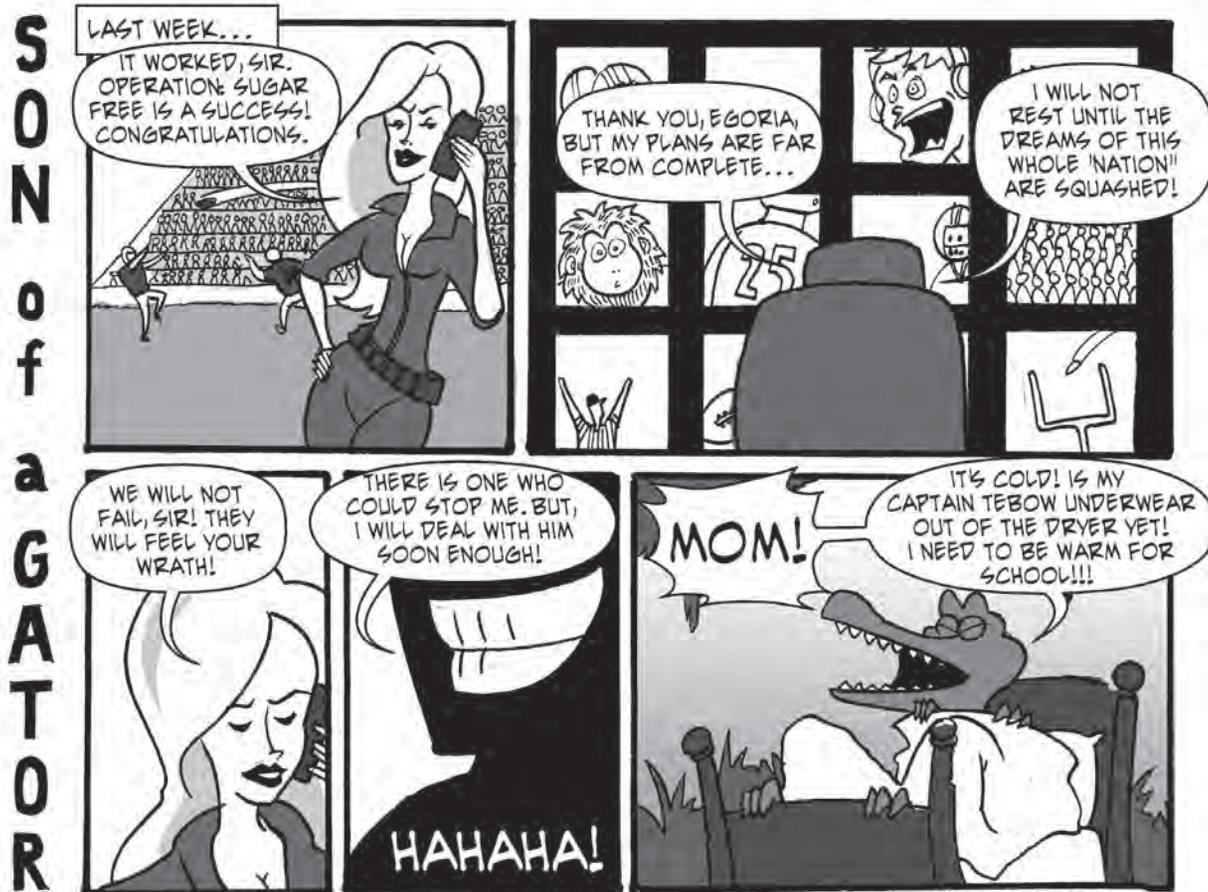
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Sarah Kinonen
EDITOR

Julia Glum
MANAGING EDITOR

Sami Main
OPINIONS EDITOR

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Column

Elegy of an apocalypse: A high school tale

Well, the world didn't end like the Mayans said it would. It's good news for us as a human race, but it's pretty bad news for the betting ticket I had — \$500 on 10,000-1 odds that the Mayan prediction would come true.

Oh, well. I hadn't quite figured out where I was gonna cash it in anyway. Or what I would have spent my winnings on. It's a funny story how I got that ticket, though.

It was back in 2007.

I was 16, even more foolish than I am now and at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes morning meeting.

They had a projector in the high school auditorium with the lights turned off. While everyone else was making out, I watched a YouTube video on the big screen.

It started off normal: hellfire, brimstone, apocalypse.

Then they dropped the Mayan knowledge bomb on us — a bunch of high schoolers, the children of the '90s who didn't become skeptical until later thanks to MythBusters and snopes.com.

I grabbed a doughnut as I walked out of the meeting, feeling woozy, as if I'd just given blood. I snacked slowly and slipped outside to catch some fresh air before my first class.

There was a guy out there. Scraggly, lost, scary.

All beard and no face.

"Is this 2007?" he shouted at me.

I think I nodded. I was almost scared enough to go back inside.

He started toward me, waving a small ticket angrily in my face. He said he was from the future, from January of 2013, and he hadn't liked the post-Mayan apocalypse world as much as he thought he would.

He had stocked up on all kind of weapons and storage items to keep himself alive in the event of apocalypse. He'd even gone out to a very sketchy bookie and laid money on the world ending that day; the bookie gave him 10,000-1 odds after he promised to put \$500 on it.

Then they took his money and laughed. The day came. He walked around with ears pricked, listening for a humongous "boom" or even a teeny one. Nothing.

He lay in bed all night like a kid waiting for Santa Claus,



Dallin Kelson
opinions@alligator.org

but not a creature stirred, not even Zipacna, the son of Seven Macaw, to unleash vicious earthquakes on the Earth.

He said he was very depressed the next few weeks.

I really had no desire to hear about his emotional problems, so I cut him off and challenged him to prove he was from the future.

"How?" he asked.

"Tell me who's No. 1 in college basketball."

"It's Duke. They've got a really good white guy."

"That's actually pretty believable. Tell me something I won't believe."

Then he told me some of the most bald-faced, ridiculous lies I'd ever heard.

First, he said Barack Obama was elected to his second term, but Hillary Clinton was leaving her post as secretary of state. Then he told me about a couple with some K-heavy names that I didn't recognize who would be all over the news: this rich girl with a sex tape and a reality show and Jay-Z's beat-maker. Supposedly they would be having a baby together, and this would somehow be a big story.

He offered me the ticket.

"I'll give it to you for 10 bucks, kid, I just need some food."

Of course, I didn't believe him about being from the future, but the ticket was real-looking enough.

I thought his predictions were funny, though, so I asked him what would happen to Florida football after the world didn't end.

He said Tebow would be in the NFL backing up Greg McElroy and Mark Sanchez, and the Gators would lose their bowl game to Louisville.

That was the final straw. I thanked him for his advice and then bought the ticket. Happy 2013, everybody.

Dallin Kelson is an English senior at UF. His columns runs on Mondays.

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

MEET THE EDITORS

Sarah Kinonen is a 21-year-old journalism senior at UF. She is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Alligator and thinks journalism is the cat's meow. When she's not working weeknights at the Alligator, she enjoys browsing the Web for all things cat-related, listening to her favorite musicians on vinyl and running around her neighborhood in bright pink sneakers. Unfortunately, she is a child of the 21st century and is sadly addicted to her iPhone. She would love to pursue a career in copy editing for a fitness-related (or cat-related) magazine after graduation. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about anything at all during the Spring semester, feel free to shoot an email to her at skinonen@alligator.org.



Kinonen

Evan Walker is a 24-year-old graduate student at UF. He currently the online Managing Editor of the Alligator. He studied English and creative writing at Stetson University. He is now pursuing a master's in science/health communication with a focus on journalism. He's from Daytona Beach. Don't go there when it isn't a week with a name. When not wrangling alligator.org, he is dabbling in web coding and design, writing obscure personal fiction, thinking about how to make uninteresting scientific things interesting and trying to forget that the next Song of Ice and Fire book won't be finished until he's well past older than a quarter of a century. Send your constructive or deconstructive criticism at ewalker@alligator.org.



Walker



Glum

Julia Glum is a 20-year-old journalism junior at UF and the print Managing Editor at the Alligator. Once, she went to report on what her editor said was a robbery. Turns out it was a double homicide. She likes lasagna, John Green books, hedgehogs, Flaco's pan con lechon sandwiches and Impressionist art. She dislikes yellow Skittles, toasters, people who hate the Jonas Brothers and the rule of three. Hopefully she'll end up working in children's book publishing someday. For now, send her story ideas and/or money at jglum@alligator.org.



Main

Sami Main is a 21-year-old journalism senior at UF. In addition to Opinions Editor for the Alligator, she is also the president of Theatre Strike Force. TSF is one of the largest college improv troupes and is UF's premier improv and sketch comedy group. She enjoys cats. She enjoys thinking about cats, looking at pictures of cats and talking about cats. You can find her on the Internet whenever possible. She's also an avid fan of BuzzFeed, but if you know her in real life, then you already knew that. She reads every email sent to opinions@alligator.org, so don't waste her time.

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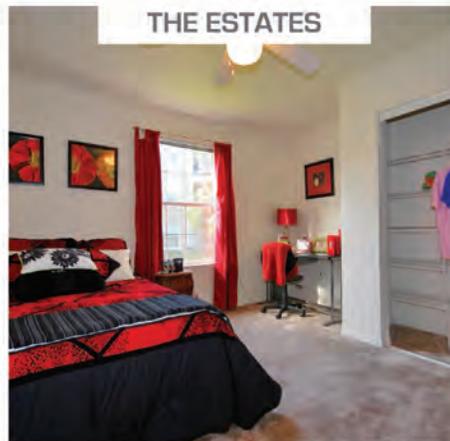
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High Springs therapy horses bring comfort to Newtown community

Three mini horses went

JEWEL MIDELIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

As the people of Newtown, Conn., attempt to move forward following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, three special guests from High Springs traveled more than 1,000 miles to comfort the saddened souls.

Magic, Wakanda and Aladdin — three blue-eyed, miniature horses from Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses — traveled with organization founders and volunteers to help comfort Newtown residents.

Debbie Garcia-Bengochea, co-founder of Gentle Carousel, said she received phone calls from victims' families asking the organization to bring its miniature horses to the town.

Garcia-Bengochea said the organization decided to make the trip north after a parent told them, "We want our children to dream of minis, not monsters."

For the past week, the 2-foot-tall horses have had private meetings with school sur-

vivors, families, first responders and community members.

Garcia-Bengochea said the Dec. 14 school shooting, which left 20 students and six adults dead, has affected everyone in the town.

"It is a very intense situation to be here and be part of this," she said. "Everyone handles things differently, but it's a very sad time."

Garcia-Bengochea said the town specifically requested Magic, a jet-black horse with a white face.

She described the reaction of the Newtown children, saying they wanted to be sprinkled with Magic's "fairy dust" after they saw the sparkles shining from the horse's hair.

On Saturday, more than 600 people gathered at the town's library to meet the three mini horses, Garcia-Bengochea said.

"The outpouring of people that want to be with the horses was amazing," she said.

After requests from residents to extend their visit, Gentle Carousel plans to stay an extra week in town.

Although the trip has been a financial challenge, Garcia-Bengochea said donations from around the world helped make the trip possible for the horses.

She said a medical volunteer from Maryland brought a heated horse ambulance to Newtown so the horses could stay warm at night. A horse training facility near the town also offered an indoor arena for the trio to relax in, as well as pastures for them to run around in after work.

Today, Garcia-Bengochea and the horses will go to other schools in the Newtown area in hopes of comforting children and school staff.

Garcia-Bengochea said the organization will name its newest therapy horse after one of the Sandy Hook Elementary students who passed away during the shooting. The child's family will follow the horse's two-year training process.

Garcia-Bengochea said she hopes Gentle Carousel can return to Newtown this summer.

"When you see the things we've seen, we absolutely feel like we wouldn't want to be anywhere else," she said.



Courtesy to the Alligator

Magic, a Gentle Carousel mini horse of High Springs, comforts a Newtown, Conn., girl at a memorial site in the town. Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses is visiting the Newtown community to aid in the healing process.

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LOCAL First Trader Joe's in Gainesville opens to excited customers

KELCEE GRIFFIS
Alligator Contributing Writer

Kate Lambert stooped over an open freezer chest, pulling out boxes of Lime Fruit Floes to fill her shopping basket.

Since Lambert served the frozen treat instead of wedding cake on her special day three years ago, she hasn't been able to find the specialty item until the opening day of Gainesville's first Trader Joe's grocery store Dec. 12.

"They taste like little margaritas and heaven," she said. "I've missed these for three years."

The opening of Trader Joe's grocery store in Butler Plaza — the second Florida location of the California-based chain — expanded specialty food options for Gainesville residents.

In spite of the rain on opening day, an arch of orange and blue balloons greeted the steady stream of customers who flooded the crosswalk and held up traffic in front of the store.

The checkout lines at each of the eight registers stretched more than seven customers long, choking nearby aisles.

"It's been like this all day, even with the rain," said employee Liz Lockwood, 27. "The locals — it don't bother them."

Lockwood, a Trader Joe's crew member, said 127 people waited to crowd into the store at the 8 a.m.

opening. By 9 a.m., 600 people had walked through the doors.

Vinnie Athey, a 25-year-old intern with Reformed University Fellowship, said he went to the store and expected a spectacle similar to Walmart during Black Friday. He said the atmosphere was lively but more civil than he expected.

"We were really just coming for the festivities," Athey said. "What we got was an island adventure."

The business Trader Joe's has been enjoying seems to be trickling into neighboring stores in the plaza, said PetSmart operations manager RaeAnna Thornton.

Thornton said the pet store has seen more foot traffic in the last month since Trader Joe's moved into the space next door.

"It's ridiculous how many Trader Joe's bags come in here and how many Trader Joe's carts wander around," she said.

That's partly because the two markets are related, Thornton said.

"The kind of people who tend to shop at Trader Joe's tend to shop here," she said. "If you're likely to care about the quality of your food, you'll also care about catering to the needs of your pet."

Because Trader Joe's opened after many students left town for Winter Break, Store Manager Jodi McCullough said employees became familiar with many

of Gainesville's permanent residents.

"The last two weeks have been a great opportunity to meet the folks that live here all year round, for locals to come in and check out

the store," she said.

So far, McCullough said, orange chicken, the 99-cent handmade Italian pasta, Green Plant juice and the whole selection of Indian food have been best sellers.

"This is a town of foodies in Gainesville, and I think we've tapped into that market well," she said. "I think this is a really great addition to the grocery landscape."



David Carr / Alligator

Trader Joe's opened at 8 a.m. on Dec. 12 in Butler Plaza to a crowd of more than 100 people. About 600 people had walked through the doors by 9 a.m.



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CRIME

Police arrest man with sword

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Writer

A Gainesville man was arrested Saturday night on charges of chasing another man with a samurai sword and resisting arrest.

The incident started just after 10 p.m. Saturday when Robert Chesser, 46, of 635 SW 11th Place, started to argue with the victim, according to a GPD arrest report.

Witnesses told police they saw Chesser run into his apartment, come out with a 3-foot long samurai sword and chase the man, swinging the sword at him.

When police arrived, Chesser ignored officers' orders to remain outside and went back into his apartment.

Outside, Chesser's wife told police that Chesser had "access to numerous swords and other bladed weapons," according to the report.

Officers approached the apartment and talked to Chesser through his front door, asking him to come out.

Chesser then charged at police with a mop, yelling "I will f***** kill you," according to the report.

A K-9 unit officer released K-9 Nero into the house to subdue him, but Chesser struck

the dog with the mop handle.

Officers then went into the house and used a Taser to subdue and arrest Chesser.

Police charged Chesser with aggravated assault, two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting an officer without violence, resisting an officer with violence, and striking or interfering with a police animal, according to the report.

GPD spokesman Ben Tobias said Chesser was diagnosed with several mental disorders and is on psychotropic medications.

Police booked Chesser into the Alachua County Jail at 11:18 p.m. Saturday, where he remained Sunday with a \$30,000 bond.

Tobias said Nero and the officers were not injured during the incident.

"This incident could have ended a lot worse," he said. "We are happy that officers were able to subdue Chesser before he was able to seriously injure or kill anyone."

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



Chesser

Program aims to prepare algebra students for success

► **ALGEBRA NATION WILL LAUNCH STATEWIDE JAN. 15.**

JENNIFER MARTINEZ PINILLO
Alligator Contributing Writer

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning and Study Edge partnered to develop a free program to serve as a study aid for middle and high school students taking the Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment.

Algebra Nation launches Jan. 15. Students will have access to study guides and video review sessions that will cover topics on the assessment.

Students will also have access to a study wall where they can post questions for experts or other students to answer. The program will also schedule tutoring sessions, especially as the date of the assessment gets closer, said Donald Pemberton, director of the Lastinger Center for Learning.

In 2012, more than 40 percent of middle and high school students failed the assessment, which began in 2011, said Study Edge president Ethan Fieldman.

Students who fail the assessment have to retake the test and pass it in order to receive credit for the class.

The program will be accessible through the Algebra Nation website and through a mobile device application for iPhones, Androids and tablets. Students can register on the website now to receive updates.

The review videos were created by teachers from school districts around Florida who have helped their students score high on the assessment, Pemberton said.

The Lastinger Center for Learning and Study Edge worked closely with the Florida Department of Education to develop this program.

Next school year, the program will also cover the biology and geometry assessments, which started in 2012.

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Paralyzed dog walks again in Gainesville Christmas miracle

MARJORIE NUNEZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

The rescue team wanted to name the paralyzed dachshund given a second chance days before Christmas "St. Nick." Instead, the dog — once scheduled for euthanization, now living with a foster family in Gainesville — was dubbed "Vixen."

The 4-year-old female wiener dog was suffering from intervertebral disc disease, a neurological problem affecting the spine, when she was dropped off at Miami-Dade Animal Services on Dec. 21.

She was unable to walk and was scheduled to be put down at noon the next day, said Steven Spierer, a board member of the Dachshund Rescue South Florida organization.

The afternoon Vixen was dropped off, a staff member contacted Dachshund Rescue South Florida.

The organization does not accept dogs with Vixen's disease because of the difficulty of finding them homes. The cost of surgery and recovery can run up to more than \$5,000, Spierer said. But the organization still wanted to help.

As soon as it heard about Vixen, Dachshund Rescue South Florida posted about her on its Facebook page.

Shortly after, they got a response from Carrie Santare, a neurology resident at UF's College of Veterinary Medicine.

According to an email from Sarah Carey, the director of Public Relations at the college, Santare offered to foster Vixen — if she

had feeling in her legs.

If a dog with her disease can feel its legs, it has an 80 to 90 percent chance of recover-

ing enough to walk.

Santare agreed to foster Vixen.

A group of seven people relayed Vixen from South Florida to Gainesville that same night. Vixen traveled for about six hours, and Santare drove an hour and a half south of Gainesville to pick her up.

"It's remarkable what can be done when just normal people work together for a cause," Spierer said.

"She has a heart of gold and will make someone extremely happy. She is my Christmas miracle."

Carrie Santare

neurology resident



Courtesy to the Alligator

After being scheduled to be put down on Dec. 22, Vixen, a 4-year-old dachshund, found a home with a foster family in Gainesville.

Within the next couple of days, it was determined that Vixen's disease was caused by a ruptured

intervertebral disc. A donor provided financial assistance, Carey said.

On Dec. 24, Vixen had an emergency surgery to decompress her spinal cord.

On Christmas morning, Vixen went home with Santare.

On Dec. 26, she was walking with a wobble.

"I have fallen in love with her, but she needs a forever home," Santare said. "She is great with my two boxers and the cat. She has a heart of gold and will make someone extremely happy. She is my Christmas miracle."

CRIME

Woman arrested after Walmart heists

KATHRYN VARN

Alligator Writer

A Pinellas Park woman was arrested Dec. 27 in connection with two Walmart robberies in Gainesville.

Gainesville Police officers arrested Regina Mary Rossi, 52, and charged her with two counts of robbery with a firearm, which is a first-degree felony, according to a GPD arrest report.

At about 3 p.m. on Black Friday, Rossi walked into the Walmart on Northeast 12th Avenue wearing a snow cap with a black wig.

Once inside, she walked around the store and put toys and a poinsettia into her cart. Then she approached a garden center cashier, according to the report.

Rossi pulled out a black handgun, pointed it at the cashier and ordered the woman to fill a bag with money.

When the cashier said she couldn't open the register, Rossi removed a toy jewelry box from her cart and asked the woman to ring up the item and give her cash.

Rossi stole more than \$700 from the cashier and fled the store, according to the report.

GPD officers responded to the scene, where a K-9 unit officer and a police dog tracked Rossi's trail.

Police later found a shirt, blue jeans, cap and boots that Rossi wore during the time of the robbery, according to the report.

A detective from Gainesville Police's Forensic Crime Unit found Rossi's fingerprints on the toys, the counter inside the store and on the cart she used.

On Dec. 26, Rossi walked into the Walmart on Northwest 13th Street. This time, she did not wear a disguise.

She walked around the store again, putting toys into her cart.

Rossi approached a cashier in the store's garden center.

As the cashier rang up and bagged the toys in Rossi's cart, Rossi told the clerk she had a

gun in her purse and demanded all money in the register, according to the report.

The cashier gave Rossi the cash and the bag of toys. Rossi later fled from the store westbound toward Bank of America, in the 2700 block of Northwest 13th Street.

Police did not say how much money was stolen.

The store's surveillance cameras captured Rossi robbing the clerk and fleeing from the scene.

The next day, using the fingerprint evidence, detectives obtained a photograph of Rossi, according to the report.

During an interview, investigators presented a photo of Rossi to one of the Walmart cashiers, who identified Rossi as the alleged robber.

Later that evening, officers located and arrested Rossi outside her sister's house in Fort White.

During questioning, Rossi told police she robbed the Walmart stores because she lost custody of her son five years ago and that her house was being foreclosed on, according to the report.

After her arrest, officers booked Rossi into the Columbia County Jail. She was later taken to the Alachua County Jail.

Meanwhile, Rossi's car was towed to University Towing in Gainesville.

Inside the car, police found a black Taurus .38-caliber handgun as well as ammunition. They also found a bag of toys, a receipt and sunglasses Rossi wore during one of the robberies.

Officers booked Rossi into the Alachua County Jail at 11:44 a.m. Dec. 30. As of Sunday night, she remained in custody with a \$200,000 bond.

Gainesville Police's crime analysts sent out Rossi's information to other law enforcement agencies in the state to see if she could be connected to any other unsolved robberies, said GPD spokesman Ben Tobias.

As of Friday, he said, Rossi may be connected to at least two other robberies, one of which happened in Pinellas County.

Tobias could not give any more details on the other incidents.

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



Rossi

UF students fly to top of data visualization contest

►THE STUDENTS WON \$2,500.

ALEXA VOLLAND

Alligator Staff Writer

Two UF students mapped out the entire world in 14 hours.

Joseph Murphy and Chad Juehring won the world's largest student data visualization competition for their program, "Six Degrees of Transportation."

Murphy, a 27-year-old first-year student in a UF's Digital Worlds Institute's masters program, competed in the Interactive Challenge at the Visualizing Global Marathon with Juehring, a 30-year-old in his second year of the same program.

Of the 1,017 students scattered across 38 countries and 176 universities, "Six Degrees of Transportation" was chosen as one of the best interactive projects submitted online for the 2012 competition.

In the competition, students had 48 hours to tackle one of three data-visualizing challenges. The three options were Disease Alerts, Global Flights Network and U.S. Election in Social Media.

Murphy and Juehring chose the Global Flights Network challenge, which had nine other entries.

Contestants were asked to look at the intricate network of flight patterns worldwide and visualize them in a new way. Murphy

said their interactive design mimics a solar system and measures in number of flights rather than in distance.

"Our perspective was to look at it not as a network looking down at Earth, but thinking of it as a single person," Murphy said.

"Six Degrees of Transportation" has dozens of colored circles that represent airports all over the world. A person can choose an airport, and the program will show six different flights to get to the final destination.

"I would never plan my travel using it, but it is fun to play with," Murphy said.

During the 14 hours it took to program, Murphy and Juehring took turns sleeping and had data running on five different computers. For their design, they won \$2,500, which they will split.

"For me it was about having a good portfolio piece, whether we won or not," he said. "Winning was a good bonus, though."

James Oliverio, director of the Digital Works Institute, wrote in an email that he was proud of Murphy and Juehring's work.

"Their intuitive interaction design and solid technical prowess are clearly exemplified in not only this project, but in their ongoing work in Digital Worlds' classes," he said.

Contact Alexa Volland at avolland@alligator.org

Gainesville bone collector pleads guilty in dino fossil case

► HE WILL BE SENTENCED IN APRIL.

CHRIS ALCANTARA

Alligator Staff Writer

A Gainesville man arrested in October accused of importing stolen dinosaur fossils from Asia plead guilty before a New York judge on Dec. 27.

As part of his plea, Eric Prokopi agreed to forfeit a 70-million-year-old *Tyrannosaurus bataar* skeleton he allegedly stole from Mongolia and sold for about \$1 million, according to the U.S. State Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Prokopi, a 38-year-old Gainesville resident and self-described "commercial paleontologist," will also give up two additional *Tyrannosaurus bataar* skeletons, as well as *Sauolophus* and *Oviraptor* fossils.

Prokopi was charged with conspiracy to smuggle illegal goods, entry of goods by means of false statements and interstate and foreign transport of goods converted and taken by fraud. If convicted, he faces a total of 17 years in prison for the charges, according to State Attorney's Office news release.

"Fossils and ancient skeletal remains are part of the fabric of a country's natural history and cultural heritage, and black marketers like Prokopi, who illegally export and sell these wonders, steal a slice of that history," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet

Bharara wrote in a statement.

From 2010 to 2012, Prokopi allegedly stole dinosaur skeletons from Mongolia and imported them into the U.S. He is also accused of providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials false information about the fossils' origin, value and identity.

Early last year, Prokopi listed a *Tyrannosaurus bataar* skeleton for auction through Heritage Auctions, an auctioning website. On May 20, an anonymous buyer from Manhattan bought the fossil for about \$1 million dollars. The next day, U.S. government officials seized the skeleton at the request of the Mongolian government.

That same month, Prokopi also sold the remains of a *Saurolophus angustirostris*, a dinosaur from the late Cretaceous period, for \$75,000 to I.M. Chait, an auction house located in Beverly Hills.

In October, agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations arrested Prokopi at his house on the 5900 block of Southwest 13th Street.

A New York judge will sentence Prokopi on April 25. With Prokopi's guilty plea, Bharara praised investigators for their work in the case.

"We are pleased that we can now begin the process of returning these prehistoric fossils to their countries of origin," he said.

Contact Chris Alcantara at calcantara@alligator.org.



AP Photo

Theifosaurus Rex

This photo released by the U.S. Attorney's office shows the fossil of a *Tyrannosaurus bataar* dinosaur at the center of a lawsuit demanding its return to Mongolia. Florida resident Eric Prokopi plead guilty Dec. 27 at federal court in New York to smuggling this fossil and others into the United States. In return for his cooperation, prosecutors said they will recommend leniency.

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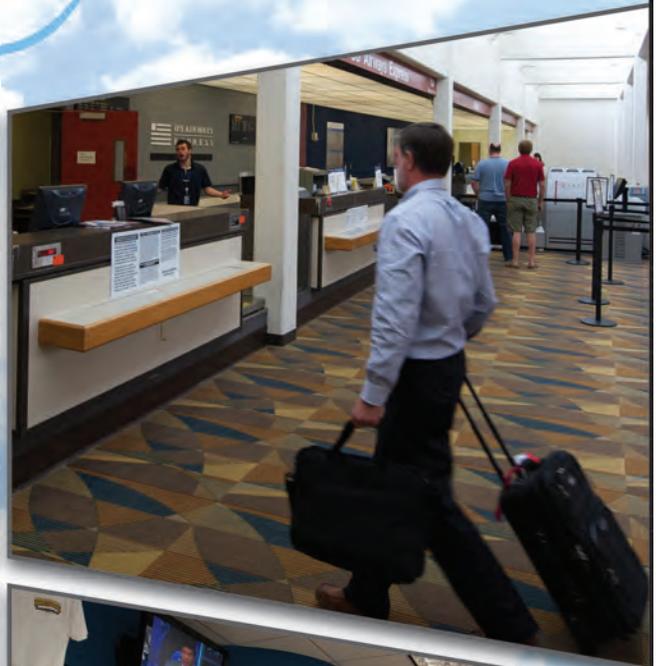
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Body scanner gives jail inside view of criminals

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CHRIS ALCANTARA
Alligator Staff Writer

They are at security checkpoints in airports all over the world.

Large full-body scanners give Transportation Security Administration officials a glimpse into what we're hiding in our pockets.

These machines, used to prevent passengers from bringing dangerous items into terminals and onto airplanes, have now made their way into county jails across the state.

At the Alachua County Jail, deputies recently started using a RadPRO SecurPASS scanner to screen criminals for any contraband before booking them into the jail.

"Security is enhanced by ensuring tools and/or weapons are not introduced into the facility by prisoners/inmates," wrote Capt. Jeff Cloutier, ASO Security Operations Division Commander at the jail, in an email.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office purchased the machine in September from Canon U.S.A. Inc., the same company that manufactures cameras and printers, for \$200,000.

The money came from confiscated drug money and funds from unfilled positions within the sheriff's office, according to an ASO news re-

lease.

The sheriff's office now joins Marion, Indian River, Polk, St. Lucie, Palm Beach and Pasco county sheriff's offices in using full body scanners in their jails, Cloutier said.

With the new machine, officials have reduced the time to search an inmate if they

believe he or she is trying to sneak illegal items into the jail.

A traditional strip search requires several deputies and could take 15 minutes to complete, said ASO spokesman Lt. Todd Kelly.

Jail officials can now screen an inmate for contraband in seconds.

Here's how it works:

An inmate steps onto a platform and is moved across a gate that shoots an X-ray beam, which takes a digital X-ray of the inmate from head to toe.

After a few seconds, the scanner produces a detailed image of the inmate's body, and the picture is sent to a computer, where a jail official checks to see if the scanner located any hidden items.

The machine can detect weapons, drugs, chemical and biological materials, and items as small as a needle, according to the SecurPASS website.

If the machine detects any hidden items, officials conduct a strip search and confiscate the contraband from the inmate.

During a testing session Dec. 11, jail officials found a handcuff key hidden inside an inmate's rectum, an item that would have gone unnoticed without the machine, Kelly said.

Along with keeping illegal items out of the jail, Sheriff Sadie Darnell said the machine would help improve work security.

"We are committed to providing a safe environment for employees at the jail and want criminals to know that the Alachua County Jail is not where you want to try to smuggle contraband," she said.

Contact Chris Alcantara at calcantara@alligator.org.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Alachua County Jail officials now use the scanner to screen criminals for contraband before booking them.

Food truck expands Latin food menu

COLLEEN WRIGHT
Alligator Writer

La Lola Loca, the Latin food truck that rolled onto campus last Fall, is back this semester.

New additions on the menu include nachos, black bean tacos and burritos, plus quesadillas. Chips and queso will replace chips with queso.

The food truck will be open from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the North Lawn of the Reitz Union.

Last semester, it traveled to locations like Century Tower and Library West.

"La Lola Loca was well-received by both students and faculty."

Jill Rodriguez

marketing program manager

Food items are less than \$10, according to the La Lola Loca UF Facebook page. Customers can pay with Flex Bucks and Declining Balances on their Gator 1 Cards, as well as cash and credit cards.

Marketing program manager for Gator Dining Services Jill Rodriguez wrote in an email that La Lola Loca will be on campus indefinitely, and no additional food trucks will be added this semester.

"La Lola Loca was well-received by both students and faculty," Rodriguez wrote.

Twenty-two-year-old chemical engineering senior Tim Heneks said he likes to order the Tacodilla.

"La Lola Loca combines everything I love about about Mexican [food]," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.

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Chuy's to celebrate Elvis' birthday

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CARINA SEAGRAVE

Alligator Contributing Writer

At Chuy's, the king of rock 'n' roll never left the building, especially not before his birthday.

The Tex-Mex restaurant chain will celebrate Elvis Presley's 78th birthday Tuesday by giving free entrees to anyone who dresses up as the American icon or his wife, Priscilla, according to a company press release.

Customers who attend the Jailhouse Rock-themed event will receive special pricing throughout the day on entrees named after Presley, which include Elvis Green Chile Fried Chicken and the Elvis Presley Memorial Combo, said Ray Gross, kitchen manager for the Gainesville Chuy's restaurant, located on Southwest Archer Road.

The restaurant typically serves 15 to 20 Elvis entrees daily, said Gross, 24.

"I'm hoping to see some babies dressed as Elvis."

Tyler Francischine
server

"People don't order Elvis plates much because they're not aware of them, but I anticipate an increase," he said. "People who don't drink Corona drink it on Cinco de Mayo, and it's the same thing here."

With the purchase of a Blue Hawaiian, Presley's favorite drink, or a margarita, guests will receive prizes such as guitar picks, a special souvenir cup and a jailhouse temporary tattoo, according to the release.

Customers will also be able to purchase T-shirts of Presley and his wife, which were made for the occasion.

Chuy's, which first opened in Austin, Texas, in 1982, has been celebrating Presley's birthday since its founding.

Tyler Francischine, a 23-year-old UF graduate and server at the restaurant, said she looks forward to seeing customers dress up in Presley paraphernalia.

"I'm hoping to see some babies dressed as Elvis," she said.

Eric Simanton, manager and spokesman for the Gainesville restaurant, said each Chuy's restaurant has an "Elvis shrine," which is used for customers to dedicate their Presley memorabilia.

Simanton said he hopes Presley's birthday bash will inspire customers to feel like family at the restaurant.

"Elvis reached so many people in his era, so we're big on the fact that Elvis is very real, very iconic and very clean, just like our restaurant," Simanton said.

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Ice rink project frozen due to technical difficulties

The ice rink could not fit on the plaza

KELCEE GRIFFIS
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville residents did not get to enjoy a white Christmas after all.

After the anticipated ice rink slated to occupy Bo Diddley Community Plaza was delayed

from opening several times, it was finally canceled after technical challenges.

The obstacles included several unsuccessful repairs to the chiller lines intended to freeze the ice and problems with fitting the ice rink on the plaza, said city spokesman Bob

Woods.

Issues with setting up the 35-foot tent designed to cover the ice also interfered with the project, according to Alligator archives.

Russell Etling, programs coordinator for the city of Gainesville, said Midwest Dis-

play decided to nix the rink because the delays pushed the opening too far into the window between Thanksgiving and the holiday season, when the company was counting on the most ticket sales.

"We do our homework and felt comfortable with [Midwest Display's] capabilities. I truly believe there were forces beyond anyone's control. Sometimes technical challenges happen."

Russell Etling
programs coordinator

Etling said the city will look into offering an ice rink next winter.

"We do our homework and felt comfortable with [Midwest Display's] capabilities," he said.

"I truly believe there were forces beyond anyone's control. Sometimes technical challenges happen."

Midwest Display representatives were unable to be reached for comment.

Ruby Mendez, a 19-year-old nursing freshman, said the rink's cancellation was a disappointing loss.

"I don't think it's fair for them to tell us they're going to bring it and then take it away," she said.



Alex Catalano / Alligator

Patrick O'Connor, 63, searches a trucking pamphlet for a job as a hired driver on Bo Diddley Community Plaza Sunday afternoon. "I used to go ice skating when I was a little kid," he said.

Meal plans offer more options

ALEXA VOLLAND
Alligator Writer

Freshman Tyler Dwyer doesn't have to feel guilty about spending money on his usual beef and rice burrito at Moe's Southwest Grill anymore.

With the start of a new semester, Moe's and Chomp It have been added to the Gator Dining meal plan.

The two restaurants in the Racquet Club Dining Center were added to provide meal plan destinations close to the Murphree Area, marketing program manager for Gator Dining Services Jill Rodriguez wrote in an email.

Rodriguez said this was a good thing for students because it has increased the number of restaurants that accept meal plan dollars to eight.

Dwyer agrees. "I'm happy about it because it gives me more options that are basically free to eat," said the 18-year-old international studies student.

Other changes to Gator Dining include renovating the Fresh Food Company and adding a Provisions on Demand Market to the Rawlings bus stop after Spring Break.

Contact Alexa Volland avolland@alligator.org.

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A man who really knows his stuff



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

James Wood examines antlers inside his taxidermy shop, Tony's Artistic Taxidermy, in Hawthorne on Oct. 30.



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

Top:
A bear skin rests on a work table inside the taxidermy shop.



Left:
James Wood works at his table inside his taxidermy shop.

Right:
A deer mount dries inside Tony's Artistic Taxidermy.



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GPD debuts mobile system

► PEOPLE CAN TEXT CRIME TIPS AND RECEIVE ALERTS.

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Writer

Communicating with Gainesville Police is now as simple as sending a text.

TipSoft software, available through police technology company PublicEngines, allows users to send anonymous crime tips and receive activity alerts via text message, email and a smartphone application.

Gainesville residents and UF students can now text tips to "CRIMES" (274637) using the keyword GPDFL or submit through the company's TipSubmit Mobile application, according to a GPD news release. Both methods will protect users' identities on all anonymous tips.

"When you have the ability to send a text message, it's a lot less intrusive to the person who's reporting the crime," said GPD spokesman Ben Tobias.

Another feature of the software, TipSoft Alerts, allows Gainesville Police to text and/or email crime activity alerts to the public, similar to the UF Alerts system.

"We're trying to figure out more ways to reach more people in the community," Tobias said.

Both TipSoft and TipSoft Alerts allow users to anonymously respond to GPD with questions or additional information, he said.

William Kilmer, CEO of PublicEngines, said the company has set up technological and legal solutions to guaran-

tee user anonymity.

During a conversation between police and citizens, no IP address or cellphone data is transmitted, he said. There is also a separate organization in place to prevent any legal pursuit of the tip provider.

"It's an easier way to have a two-way dialogue with the city," Tobias said.

Since UF started sending out text and email alerts in 2008, students and faculty have been able to receive alerts faster than the previous email system, said Kenneth Allen, emergency management coordinator for UF Environmental Health & Safety.

In a Fall 2012 survey administered to 683 UF students, alumni, faculty and parents, close to 70 percent of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the UF Alert system.

Amelia Butler, a 20-year-old public relations senior, is the founder of Lady Gators are R.A.D., an outreach organization to increase student awareness of rape aggression defense classes offered through the University Police.

She said the organization has a section on the website where students can ask questions directly to a university police officer without using their name or calling the police department.

"I think it's something students feel more comfortable with," she said. "I really respect the fact that they're going to offer something where students can increase their communication."

Sign up for TipSoft Alerts on GPD's website at www.gainesvillepd.org.

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



Sarah Davis / Alligator

Textbook Tycoon

Before starting the Spring semester, Javier Lavayen, a 25-year-old psychology junior, searches the aisles of the UF Bookstore in the Reitz Union on Saturday for his textbooks.

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Mon. 1/7	Football Season & Bowl Game Recap (Deadline: 12/07/12)
Fri. 1/18	Gymnastics, Tennis, Swimming, Women's Basketball Men's Basketball vs. Missouri, Track & Field Gator Invitational
Fri. 1/25	Gymnastics Gators Link to Pink vs. Auburn
Fri. 2/1	Men's Basketball vs. Ole Miss, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Women's Basketball
Fri. 2/8	Men's Basketball vs. Mississippi State Men's Golf Gator Invitational, Softball Preview
Fri. 2/15	Baseball Preview, Softball, Women's Basketball
Fri. 2/22	Tennis, Lacrosse, Baseball, Gymnastics Men's Basketball vs. Arkansas
Fri. 3/1	Men's Basketball vs. Alabama Softball, Baseball, Gymnastics, Men's Tennis
Mon. 3/18	Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament (Bracket)
Fri. 3/29	Men's Tennis, Baseball
Fri. 4/5	Track & Field Pepsi Florida Relays Orange & Blue Game (Approximate Date) Gymnastics NCAA Regionals
Fri. 4/12	Baseball, Men's Tennis

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Bookstore donations better world

ALEXA VOLLAND
Alligator Writer

The UF Bookstore has partnered with Better World Books to donate textbooks that cannot be sold back in support of world literacy.

UF Bookstore Director Lynne Vaughan said UF has been on a trial run with Better World Books for the past year but recently became an official partner.

Since the inception of Better World Book's library discards and donations in 2004, more than 2,000 libraries across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have joined Better World Books.

The program manages discarded and donated books by reselling them on BetterWorldBooks.com for up to 90 percent off, then shares the proceeds. According to the Better World Books website, one program, Book for Book, donates a book to a person in need every time a book is purchased online.

A portion of all the book sales

goes to nonprofit literacy partners, Books for Africa and Feed the Children.

Nearly 7 million books have been donated.

"We are keeping books from going to landfills."

Lynne Vaughan
UF Bookstore Director

"I think it's wonderful to be able to give these books to people that need them," Vaughan said. "We are keeping books from going to landfills."

Depending on the textbook requests made by professors, not all textbooks sold at the beginning of the semester can be sold back to the bookstore, she said.

"It's the books that do not have a value that we send to Better World Books," Vaughan said.

Of the thousands of books sold at the beginning of the Fall semester, 300 to 500 books were donated.

"Students aren't just recycling a book," Vaughan said. "It's helping

someone economically to have access to something they might not have ever had access to before."

Amanda Fretz, a 19-year-old Spanish sophomore, said UF's involvement with Better World Books is fantastic. As a former English major, Fretz said she was a strong believer in reading at an early age.

"The bookstore doesn't offer a high enough return for me to want to do buyback, so I'd love for my books to go to a good cause," she said.

Celine Rodrigues, a 20-year-old biology junior and service director for Heal the World at UF, said she was also happy about UF's involvement with the organization.

"This is a great thing for UF to be a part of to help spread the importance of education," she said. "I have so many books just sitting there that I'm never going to look at again, I might as well put them to good use."

Contact Alexa Volland at avolland@alligator.org.

Health department urges flu shots

► **UF STUDENTS CAN GET VACCINATED ON CAMPUS.**

KELCEE GRIFFIS
Alligator Contributing Writer

In the wake of the holiday season and the onset of Spring semester, the Alachua County Health Department urges Gainesville residents to take action to ward off the flu.

"The most effective precautions we can use to fight illness are getting vaccinated before flu season and practicing good hygiene regimes," said Anthony Dennis, environmental health director for the Alachua County Health Department, in a statement.

While the flu and the com-

mon cold share the same category as respiratory tract infections, the flu tends to be more severe, according to a health department press release.

The department recommends preventative measures such as washing hands with soap and water, avoiding touching the face, covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, limiting exposure to sick people and getting the flu shot each year.

To get vaccinated, Gainesville residents can attend one of the department's flu clinics at 224 SE 24th St. on Jan. 15 and Jan. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

UF students with a Gator 1 Card can receive free flu shots at the Student Health Care Center, located at 280 Fletcher Drive.

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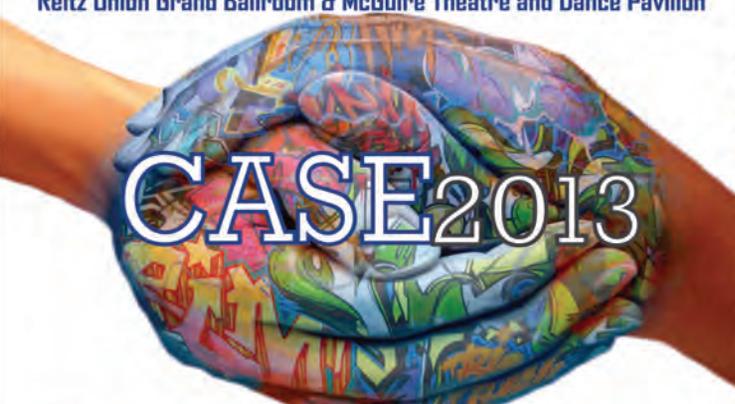
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UF ranked nationally for affordable education

SAMANTHA SHAVELL
Alligator Staff Writer

UF is the best value public college in the state of Florida, according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

The university ranked No. 3 for in-state and No. 11 for out-of-state.

Each school is ranked on its in-state and out-of-state cost. The tuition for each has different cost structures. In-state is first because more students who go to public universities choose one in their home state, said senior associate editor Marc Wojno.

UF costs \$16,593 per year for in-state tuition and \$38,870 for out-of-state tuition.

Other Florida schools on the list included Florida State University, University of Central Florida and University of South Florida.

Kiplinger is a publisher of business forecast and advice. The rankings were based on cost and quality.

Kiplinger started with 600 public institutions and narrowed down the list to 130 based on academic quality and then ranked those schools on cost and financial aid.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ranked No. 1 for in-state and No. 2 for out-of-state. Although the university's tuition is more than UF's, UNC's cost is less after need-based aid is factored in. UNC cost

about \$18,000 for in-state tuition and with financial aid factored in, it cost about \$6,000. At UF, after financial aid is applied, tuition cost about \$9,000.

No. 2 for in-state was the University of Virginia, which switched places with UF this year.

Wojno said UF cost went up and test scores fell slightly, while UVA rose in test scores and four-year-graduation rate.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said these rankings seem fair and objective.

"The fact we're No. 3 in very good company speaks very well for the university," he said.

Contact Samantha Shavell at sshavell@alligator.org.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine results

Florida schools with best tuition and academic value

School	In-state	Out-of-state
UF	3	11
New College	7	30
FSU	26	33
UCF	42	69
USF	57	56
UNF	64	94



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Fans In the Stands

UF fans stare onto the field during the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on Wednesday. Students traveled more than 500 miles from Gainesville for the game.

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Trustees discusses campus building changes

JULIA GLUM
Alligator Staff Writer

Campus infrastructure was a popular topic of discussion at UF's Board of Trustees meeting last month.

The trustees voted in favor of a makeover for the Stephen C. O'Connell Center and a renovation of Newell Hall into a study center.

The trustees also heard a report from Vice President for Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds regarding building a new presi-

dent's house.

About 82 percent of UF's peer universities provide a house for their presidents, Reynolds said. The average size is about 10,000 square feet.

Current UF President Bernie Machen does not live in the house, which Reynolds said is outdated, hard to secure and not private.

The building is "inadequate in size and facilities for the needs of an AAU school president," Reynolds said.



Machen

The President Housing Policy Subcommittee recommended the construction of an entirely new house on UF's property. Private donations would fund the project, Reynolds said.

The new house would be built on the 7-acre former Baby Gator area on Village Drive, a location Reynolds said has buffer zones for the president's

privacy.

It would be about 8,000 to 10,000 square feet and would cost about \$2 million.

The old house would become a facility for events and receptions, Reynolds said.

A motion was also passed to officially name the women's lacrosse practice field as The Rob Gidel Family Practice Field.

The new indoor tennis facility was named The Charles R. and Nancy V. Perry Indoor Tennis Facility.

Contact Julia Glum at jglum@alligator.org.

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Employment:
Applications accepted on an ongoing basis, apply online at www.oconnellcenter.ufl.edu/employment/employment
Recreation:
For recreational info and hours, please visit www.oconnellcenter.ufl.edu/recreation.weekly.aspx
Events:
To see the latest event schedule for the O'Connell Center, and to learn more information about our facility, please visit www.oconnellcenter.ufl.edu
Please visit www.oconnellcenter.ufl.edu/follow_us.aspx to stay up to date with our social media outlets, and our weekly/monthly calendars
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Classifieds

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013

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1br \$375. 2br \$425 372-1201, 213-3901
4-24-13-72-2

Deluxe, Large 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7BR apt/house, 60 second walk to UF. Remodeled, Old House charm. Central AC, washer/dryer included. Wood floors. With Parking. By Private Owner. 538-2181 lv message 4-24-13-72-2

★★ ELLIE'S HOUSES ★★

Quality single family homes. Walk or bike to UF. www.ellieshouses.com 352-215-4991 or 352-215-4990 12-11-13-167-2



Double your pleasure in our spacious 2 bedroom 2 bath apartments. Individual leasing available! Mention this ad for \$0 move in fees!! Call for Details! 352-335-7656
4-24-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

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Just off SW 20th Ave & 34th Street. \$425 to \$545. Call 335-7066, visit us on Facebook or Twitter or at madisonon20th.com. 4-24-13-72-2

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$475. Many floor plans, some w/ enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, BRs carpeted. DW, W/D hk-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus rte, some walk to UF. Sec 8 accepted 352-332-7700 4-24-13-72-2

Centerpoint - 1220 NW 12 ST \$450 - 1BR/1BA - 530 SQ.FT.

Bike to UF through-tree lined streets or ride the bus located one block away! A true 1/1 close but far enough away from the ruckus of the student ghetto. **No application fee, most pets ok. E.F.N. Properties, 352-371-3636 or www.efnproperties.com rentals@efnproperties.com**
4-24-13-72-2

SPACIOUS 2BR/2BA APT.

Convenient location to Shands, UF & Butler Plaza. Asking \$700. Please call Martine 352-682-9126. yttek@hotmail.com 1-7-12-112-2

LAKESWOOD VILLAS

Large 1,2 & 3BR floorplans starting at \$735. Free Hi-Speed internet, washer/dryer, fitness center, computer lab, swimming pool etc. M-F 9-6, Sat. 10-5 700 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-371-8009 www.lakewoodvillas.com
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PET'S PARADISE

\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 1-31-13-18-2

1 or 2 BR,\$500-\$650, close to UF campus or downtown, busline to Santa Fe College; greenspace; trees; privacy; prefer calm, quiet, mature or serious students; cats ok. 1824 NW 10th St; 1807 NW 10 St. 352 284 3873; 352 376 0080; postj@bellsouth.net 1-7-12-28-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

MERRILL MANAGEMENT INC.
825 NW 13th Street
352-339-3329 or 352-494-6692
www.merrillmanagement.com

1BR 1BA Apt 3 BLKS to UF, Carpet, Central H & Air, \$500/Mo Marcott 1029 SW 3rd Avenue

1BR 1BA Apt 1 BLK to UF Carpet, Central H & Air, \$525/Mo Grad II 1236 SW 4th Avenue

2BR 1BA Apt 1 BLK to UF, Ritz Apts Wood Floors, Central H & Air Lease thru May, June or July 2013 1236 SW 1st Avenue \$650/Mo

2 BR 1BA Apt Robert Obrien Apts Terrazzo Floors, Window A/C, Nat Gas Ht Near Sams Club/Walmart \$450/Mo 2901 NW 14th Street

2BR 1BA Duplex Close to UF 1914 NW 9th Street \$625/Mo Carpet, Central & Air 1-7-12-16-2

2BR/1BA, Cent A/C, mobile home on shady lot on busline. Laundry room. No pets. From \$355-\$420/mo. Incl water. 1st 1/2 month free rent. Vacant lots also available 4546 NW 13th St. 376-5887 4-24-83-2

Close to UF/Shands/VA/Downtown On bus route to UF. 3BR/3BA twnhs, furn & W/D avail. For students/professionals. 1448 SW 25th Pl at Bivens Forest. \$850/mo. Avail now. No children. 352-327-2931 or 376-6183 1-8-12-10-2

**** Downtown ** 1Bedroom ****
Unique apt in great location. New flooring, fresh paint. \$460/mth. Call 870-2760. Others available.
1-11-12-11-2

4BR/2BA HOUSE - 754 NW 20th St. Walk to UF. Kitchen equipped. Indoor laundry with W/D. Central H/AC. 2200 sq ft. Available now. 332-6029. For rent or sale. 1-7-13-4-2

WINDSOR PARK 3BR/3BA Completely remodeled. Short-term lease. Spring &/or summer. Will rent \$450/rm. Incl cable, internet, elec, water, sewer, trash, W/D, sec sys. On bus rte. Avail 1-3. 407-415-6531 1-7-13-4-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

HOUSE Large 3BR/3BA, plus bonus room & bath, carport, fenced yard. Walk/bike to campus, 3 bus routes. Available immediately. 105 NW 30th St. \$1700/mo. Call or text 352-281-7932 1-7-13-3-2

Shands/campus-1 block, \$550, 1 spacious bedroom, carpeted, very clean, pool, parking, quiet, prefer calm, quiet, stable, mature tenant. Available. No dogs. 352 284 3873 or postj@bellsouth.net 1-25-13-15-2

3 Subleases

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1/1/13 - 7/15/13. Two Blocks/Midtown 2BR, 1.5BA, Part furn, incl W/D, 1st FL is LR, Kit, Lndry, 1/2 BA, Up has 2BR/1BA (1BR now a study) 3 closets. 502-419-9000 or 502-314-7082. \$1125+Util. Nice. Won't Last. 1-7-13-2-3

4 Roommates

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

Beautifully renovated, furnished condo, 1 mile from UF, \$359/MO includes cable, internet, utilities, pool + fitness room and on bus route, Female roommate needed, 352 262-2871 1-7-13-6-4

5 Real Estate

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NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF

For Info on ALL Condos for Sale, Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or **Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551** 4-24-72-5

6 Furnishings

Got a new couch?. Sell your old one in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND (3463) to place your ad today.

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-24-13-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-24-13-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400 Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-24-13-72-6

BED - KING - \$200 PILLOWTOP mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-24-72-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$4500, must sell, sacrifice \$850 (352) 372-7490 4-24-72-6

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How To Place A Classified Ad:

Online: w/ Visa or MasterCard at www.alligator.org/classified

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Cash, Check, MC, or Visa
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1105 W. University Ave.
M-F, 8am - 4pm

By E-mail: classifieds@alligator.org

By Fax: (352) 376-3015

By Mail:
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- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 For Rent: Furnished | 6 Furnishings | 11 Motorcycles, Mopeds | 16 Health Services | 21 Entertainment |
| 2 For Rent: Unfurnished | 7 Computers | 12 Autos | 17 Typing Services | 22 Tickets |
| 3 Sublease | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted | 18 Personals | 23 Rides |
| 4 Roommates | 9 Bicycles | 14 Help Wanted | 19 Connections | 24 Pets |
| 5 Real Estate | 10 For Sale | 15 Services | 20 Event Notices | 25 Lost & Found |

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6 Furnishings

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

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 4-24-72-6

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 Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-24-72-6

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-24-72-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
 Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-24-13-72-6

7 Computers

Selling computers, parts, or repair services or just looking for that new rig? Look in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND for more information.

8 Electronics

Sell your old stereo, cell phone, and more in the Electronics Section of the Alligator Classifieds. 373-FIND

9 Bicycles

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10 For Sale

●UF Surplus Equipment Auctions●
 are underway...bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.ufl.edu 392-0370 4-24-13-72-10

10 For Sale

GOATS FOR SALE
 Charlie - 352-514-9858 4-24-72-10

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 352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com
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12 Autos

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 00 HONDA ODYSSEY \$7999
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13 Wanted

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 for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$ Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090
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 to transport cancer patients to treatment.
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 Training and liability insurance provided.
 Please call
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St. Francis House is need of donations for their holiday meals, such as turkeys, boxed stuffing and canned vegetables.

If you are interested in helping, please contact
 Stephanie Breal at (352) 378-9079
 or by e-mail at
 sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfooxmail.com

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 ●Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace.
 ●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
 Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Red-headed clown	4 Busy	35 Nice to look at, as a landscape	50 Lady ___: Univ. of Tennessee team
5 Enzyme ending	6 "What's your ___?"	38 Garson of "Mrs. Miniver"	51 Like, with "to"
8 Oak nut	7 City NNW of Oklahoma City	39 Most severe	52 Bowler's assignment
13 With, on le menu	8 Male in charge	44 Nattily attired	53 Tennis great
14 Tiger Woods's ex	9 Toyota until 2006	46 Steadily wear away	54 Freezes (up)
15 "Bad, Bad" Brown, in a Croce song	10 Vocally expressed	48 Benjamin Moore product	55 "It seems to me," online
16 DEA agent	11 Churn up	49 Use without authority	56 Thailand neighbor
17 1958 film that won nine Oscars	12 Part of NASDAQ's address		57 Self-images
18 Not showy	14 Land with pyramids		
19 Dreary late fall forecast	20 Tough ruler		
22 Spices (up)	21 What plaids and stripes do		
23 Fond du ___, Wisconsin	24 Result of hearth burn		
24 Lend a hand	25 Helped oneself, illegally		
27 Airport safety gp.	26 Become established		
29 Bible book following the Gospels	27 Strong string		
33 Brew, as tea	28 Building location		
34 Cheese on a ham sandwich	30 Singer/dancer		
36 Primitive shelter	Rivera		
37 Food truck order	31 Bloom from a bulb		
40 Quarterback Manning	32 Time on the job		
41 Big name in air conditioning	34 Rock to the music		
42 Have pizza delivered, say			
43 Put in the mail			
45 Give the once-over			
46 Spellbound			
47 Go ___: lose it			
49 "Trinity" novelist Leon			
50 South American seaport			
58 Giraffe relative			
59 Gulf War missile			
60 Online periodical, for short			
61 Easily wrinkled fabric			
62 The Beatles' ___ Comes the Sun"			
63 "Scram!"			
64 Hagar's dog			
65 Mind-reading, briefly			
66 Throw easily			

DOWN

1 Judge's seat	59	60
2 Shaped like Obama's office	62	63
3 Celsius freezing point	65	66

By Diane Upchurch
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A1	E1	U1	Y4	L1	C3	Q10			
A1	E1	U1	R1	R1	L1	G2			
E1	I1	I1	U1	P3	R1	S1			
A1	E1	U1	G2	L1	M3	P3			

Triple Word Score RACK 1

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FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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 01-07

13 Wanted

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 ●FREE oral exam, up to \$160 compensation
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CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
 ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
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 by David L. Hoyt 1-7-13

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3. Lift		VEALEET
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CLUE: This actor played Batman in a 1995 movie.

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

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DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE

Notre Dame, Alabama to play for BCS title tonight

► KICKOFF IS TONIGHT AT 8 ON ESPN.

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Sometimes, the buildup to a game can overwhelm what actually happens on the field.

Certainly, No. 1 Notre Dame and No. 2 Alabama would have to play nothing less than a classic to live up to all the hype for Monday night's BCS championship.

Before either team stepped on the field in balmy South Florida, this was shaping up as one of the most anticipated games in years.

College football's two most storied programs, glorified in movie and song, facing off for the biggest prize.

"It's definitely not any other game," Alabama linebacker C.J. Mosley said.

For the Crimson Tide (12-1), this is a chance to be remembered as a full-fledged dynasty. Alabama will be trying to claim its third national championship in four years and become the first school to win back-to-back BCS titles, a remarkable achievement given the ever-increasing parity of the college game and having to replace five players from last year's title team who were picked in the first two rounds of the NFL draft.

"To be honest, I think this team has kind of exceeded expectations," coach Nick Saban said Sunday.

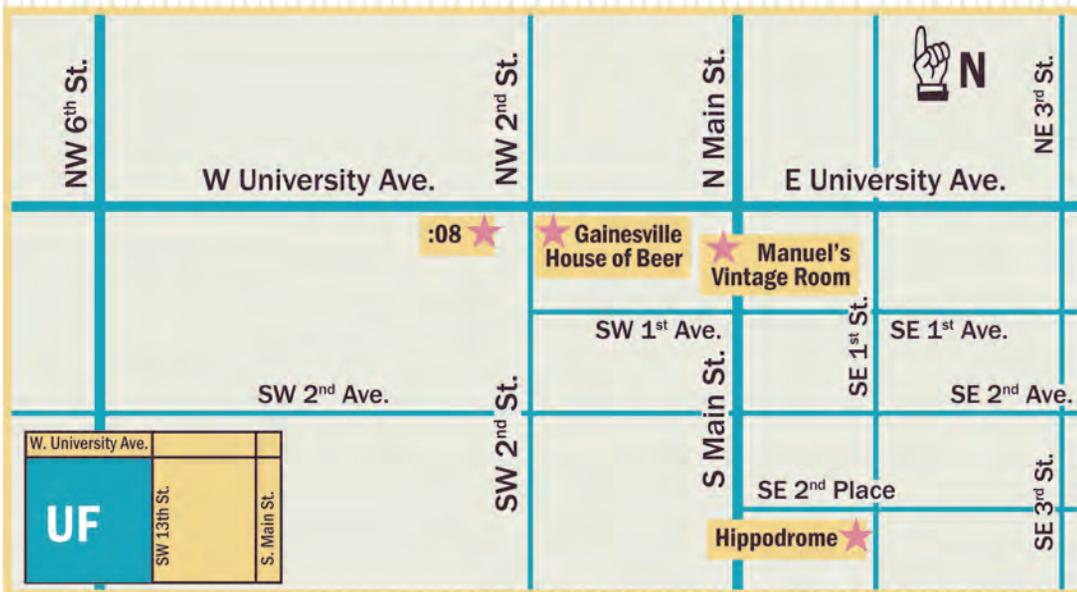
"If you look at all the players we lost last year, the leadership that we lost ... I'm really proud of what this team was able to accomplish."

That said, it's not a huge surprise to find Alabama playing for another title. That's not the case when it comes to Notre Dame.

Despite their impressive legacy, the Fighting Irish (12-0) weren't even ranked at the start of the season. But overtime wins against Stanford and Pittsburgh, combined with three other victories by a touchdown or less, gave Notre Dame a shot at its first national title since 1988.

After so many lost years, the golden dome has reclaimed its luster in coach Brian Kelly's third season.

"It starts with setting a clear goal for the program," Kelly said. "Really, what is it? Are we here to get to a bowl game, or are we here to win national championships? So the charge immediately was to play for championships and win a national championship."



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UF ends resurgent year in Sugar Bowl disappointment

GREG LUCA

Alligator Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The Gators walked off the field on Wednesday — many of them for the final time — experiencing a range of emotions.

While the disappointment of losing 33-23 to Louisville in one of the biggest upsets in BCS bowl history stung, the finale dud in the Sugar Bowl was not enough to put a damper on Florida's resurgent 2012.

"Obviously this is a sour day and a sour note, and I apologize to our fans and the university," coach Will Muschamp said. "But we've had a great year, and we're moving this thing forward at a rapid pace. And I'm excited where we are. Very disappointed with the outcome today, but very positive as we move forward."

The Gators rode a stout defense, powerful running game and resilient attitude to an 11-win season. Although each of those components disappointed on Wednesday, the lackluster result could not dim the positive memories.

Before long, the players were laughing and joking in the locker room, reminiscing about the season and looking forward to their future, be it as a graduate, an NFL rookie or a piece of what

figures to be a promising 2013 roster.

"It's a great season in my eyes," junior Sharrif Floyd said. "We wasn't supposed to be here in a lot of people's eyes, and we proved the whole country wrong. ... Great season for us, and there ain't nothing to do but go up the ladder for this team next year."

Florida notched wins against top-10 opponents LSU, South Carolina and Florida State. Only a six-turnover meltdown in a 17-9 loss to Georgia on Oct. 27 kept a UF team that entered the season ranked No. 23 from playing for the national championship.

"We wasn't supposed to be here in a lot of people's eyes, and we proved the whole country wrong. ... Great season for us, and there ain't nothing to do but go up the ladder for this team next year."

Sharrif Floyd

UF defensive tackle

The Gators hardly looked championship-worthy on Wednesday, trailing from the opening play from scrimmage against a Cardinals team that had not previously faced a ranked opponent.

"They were what we were for the

SEE BOWL, PAGE 30



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Junior tight end Jordan Reed dives for a few extra yards during the Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Reed was limited during Florida's 33-23 loss to Louisville due to a left knee injury.

Sophomore backup quarterback to transfer

► JACOBY BRISSETT AND CHRIS JOHNSON ARE THE FOURTH AND FIFTH FLORIDA PLAYERS TO TRANSFER SINCE DECEMBER.

JOSH JURNOVOY

Alligator Staff Writer

If there was any doubt that Jeff Driskel was Florida's quarterback of the future following his shaky Sugar Bowl performance, it was erased on Sunday.

UF announced that sophomore backup quarterback Jacoby Brissett will transfer. Florida also announced

the release of running back Chris Johnson.

"Both Jacoby and Chris expressed an interest in transferring and getting a fresh start," coach Will Muschamp said in the release. "We are very thankful for their contributions to the University of Florida and wish them the best of luck."

Brissett committed to UF in January 2011 even though Driskel, Rivals.com's top-ranked quarterback, had already signed with the Gators.

Driskel began the 2011 campaign as John Brantley's backup, but an ankle injury suffered against Alabama on Oct. 1 opened the door for Brissett

SEE DEPARTURES, PAGE 30

WHAT TO EXPECT

Get to know us this semester

For those of you who were here during the summer, you're likely well aware that I'm a movie buff. I bombarded you with references to "John Carter" and "The Dark Knight Rises" like my life depended on it. Fortunately for you, I toned it down during the fall.

And don't be alarmed when I begin this column with a line from a movie. You shouldn't expect uncontrolled movie references from us this semester. Really, I promise.

I recently watched Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," and at one point during the film, our 16th president — played by Daniel Day-Lewis — shouted, "Buzzards' guts, man!"

We all usually look at President Lincoln and see The Great Emancipator. A fearless leader. A stoic, serious man. That dude with the weird beard on the \$5 bill.

And then the guy yells, "Buzzards' guts, man!" I mean, what the hell?

When you really look at a person and listen to him or her talk for a bit, that's when you really get to know that person. To most of you, those of us here at alligatorSports are nothing



Joe Morgan

twitter: @joe_morgan

more than the names in all caps before each story begins.

Sharing stories is an intimate experience. People used to sit around campfires huddled together when a

story was told. I'm not saying a run-of-the-mill midweek baseball story is the stuff of legend like a good ghost story, but there should be a connection between writers and their readers.

That is why I invite you to email us. Tweet us. Approach us on campus.

Attached to this column, you will find a graphic featuring mug shots and Twitter handles for every writer on our staff. All of us.

"Buzzards' guts, man!" That's personal.

We strive to be experts on our beats. If you attended the Florida women's basketball game yesterday, you noticed Jennifer George injured her right arm.

If you want to know more as the week pro-

SEE WELCOME, PAGE 31



Senior guard Kenny Boynton tied a career-high with 28 points in a 79-58 win against Yale on Sunday. See story, page 33.

Nelson shines in NFL playoffs

Former Florida star Reggie Nelson paced the Cincinnati Bengals with 10 tackles in a 19-13 loss against the Houston Texans on Saturday. Nelson also notched two tackles for loss and a quarterback hit.

Poll Results

Are you disappointed that Louisville was selected as Florida's opponent in the Sugar Bowl?

68% YES
32% NO

473 total votes

Florida rallies to victory against LSU despite star forward's injury

George left game with 5:06 remaining

PHILLIP HEILMAN
Alligator Staff Writer

At 5-foot-6, Carlie Needles is the shortest player on Florida's roster. But Needles came up huge in the waning moments of the Gators' victory on Sunday.

With 12 seconds remaining and UF clinging to a three-point lead, Needles blocked LSU guard Adrienne Webb's game-tying shot attempt.

Needles' first career block helped Florida seal a 77-72 victory against LSU (10-5, 1-1 Southeastern Conference) in the O'Connell Center.

"She's fearless; that's what makes Carlie special," coach Amanda Butler said. "Carlie is a tireless worker and really tough."

Needles added: "I really didn't even try to block it. I was just trying to get up and not let her get that three. (It was) a big stop for us."

Florida (12-4, 1-1 SEC) was without senior Jennifer George down the stretch. With 5:06 left in the second half, George tangled with Webb under the Tigers' basket.

George's right elbow and shoulder were caught under her body when she crashed violently to the court.

George screamed in pain and had to be helped off the floor by Florida's medical staff.

The forward returned to the bench minutes later with her right shoulder heavily wrapped and in a sling.

After the game, Butler said she was unsure of the extent of her injury but would have a better estimation today.

"[The medical staff] told me she wanted to go back in the game," Butler said. "I'd say that's probably a good indication."

Before suffering the injury, George scored the first seven points of the game and finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, her seventh double-double of the season.

George exited the game with the score tied 62-62. Minus their top scorer, the Gators turned to junior Jatterra Bonds.

Bonds scored a game-high 19 points, including seven following George's departure.

"When [George] left, we were still able to grind it out and finish," Bonds said.

ish," Bonds said.

"We were able to fight back and bounce back on our home court."

With Sunday's victory, the

Gators have won 15 consecutive games in the O'Connell Center.

More importantly, Sunday's win helped Florida avoid an 0-2 start in SEC play.

"The way we won the game today is really important," Butler said.

"You aren't going to play a lot of SEC games that are decided by 15 or 20 points. It's just not going to happen. You're going to have to grind it out to win games in this league."

Contact Phillip Heilman at pheilman@alligator.org



Ryan Jones / Alligator

Redshirt freshman guard Carlie Needles (left), assistant coach Murriel Page (center) and the Gators cheer from the bench during Florida's 77-72 win against LSU on Sunday in the O'Connell Center.



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THE GATOR RUN
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Early deficit prevented Gators from relying on rushing attack

BOWL, from page 28

past 11 weeks," defensive tackle Omar Hunter said. "They came out and they weren't going to be denied. They played a great game. Everything went their way."

On Florida's first offensive play, quarterback Jeff Driskel dropped back, looked left and fired a pass a few feet behind wideout Andre Debose.

Debose skidded to a stop and reached back with his right arm to try to corral the pass, instead tipping the ball into Louisville cornerback Terrell Floyd's hands.

Floyd ran 38 yards uncontested for the score, giving the Cardinals a lead they never relinquished.

"We never got the momentum," UF tight end Jordan Reed

said.

Florida's plus-17 turnover margin was one of the biggest keys to its four-win improvement from 2011, but the Gators posted a minus-2 on Wednesday.

Also critical was UF's pass defense, which entered tops in the nation in efficiency before being torched by Teddy Bridgewater to the tune of 266 yards and two

UF Football

touch-downs. Even Florida's dominant rushing attack, so key to an offense that struggled through the air, never got on a roll. The Gators were constantly playing catch-up and ran the ball a season-low 30 times as a result.

UF's signature post-halftime

outburst was also absent. The Gators opened Wednesday's second half with an onside kick attempt, but a Cardinals' recovery and personal foul penalties against Chris Johnson and Loucheiz Purifoy put Louisville at Florida's 19-yard line.

Bridgewater needed only one play to extend Louisville's lead to 30-10, tossing a touchdown pass to Damian Copeland.

"This whole season we've been playing as one of the best teams in the nation in the second half," Evans said. "I thought we were going to pull it off, like we usually do. But they came through and pushed forward and did a hell of a job in the second half."

That UF even expected to come back is a reflection on Muschamp.

A season after Florida needed a win in the Gator Bowl to secure a 7-6 finish, the culture changed. Gone is the team Muschamp called "soft" after a loss against Florida State in 2011.

"This team has made great gains from where it was last year," defensive tackle Omar Hunter said. "With coach Muschamp and his staff coming in and changing the face of this program, it's been great."

Florida is stronger and tougher, a reputation that can not be shaken by a single loss at the end of the season.

"[Muschamp] transformed us from what we were to what we are now," Reed said. "We're just going to keep getting better from here."

Florida is losing nine senior

starters, and juniors Matt Elam, Sharrif Floyd and Jordan Reed, who announced their intentions to skip their senior season and enter the NFL Draft. Dominique Easley and Jelani Jenkins may also decide to forgo their senior year and enter the draft.

But Muschamp will reload, hauling in a recruiting class that Rivals rates No. 5 in the nation.

More immediately, the Gators and sophomore quarterback Jeff Driskel will turn their focus to an offseason of preparation, looking for ways to build on 2012's impressive turnaround.

"It hurts that we lost like this," guard Jon Halapio said. "But we will come back next year."

Contact Greg Luca at gluca@alligator.org.

Tight end becomes third Gators junior to declare for NFL Draft

DEPARTURES, from page 28

to start the following weekend against LSU.

When Driskel regained his health, Brissett remained the backup. Brissett started in two games and played in eight, throwing for 206 yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions.

Brissett battled Driskel for the starting spot throughout spring and fall camp in 2012, ultimately losing the competition.

Following Week 1, Brissett only played in four games for UF, including a start in place of Driskel (ankle) in a 23-0 win against Jacksonville State on Nov. 17.

Driskel will begin his second year as Florida's starting quarterback with one fewer offensive weapon. Tight end Jordan Reed announced on Saturday via a UF release that he would forgo his senior season and declare for the NFL Draft.

Reed led the Gators with 44 catches for 552 yards this year.

"I've enjoyed four good years at Florida,

but I feel that now is the right time to pursue my dream of playing in the NFL," Reed said in the statement.

"I appreciate the support from all the coaches and staff here, and I'll always be a Gator."

The departures of Reed, Brissett and Johnson bring Florida's mark the total of underclassmen departures at seven.

Following UF's 33-23 loss in the Sugar Bowl, defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd and safety Matt Elam announced they would enter the 2013 NFL Draft.

Now, Florida faces the task of rebounding from one of its worst defensive performances of the season without All-SEC first-teamers Floyd and Elam.

Even though the coaches advised him to go pro, Floyd said the decision to leave Florida was not an easy one.

"We're going to walk away from the program we've been in for three years and bonded with a lot of people, so it's emotional and you feel it," Floyd said.

Floyd added that he did not make his de-

cision final until after the Sugar Bowl. His 13 tackles for loss led the team.

Elam, a first-team All-American, finished with 76 tackles — 11 for a loss. Both totals ranked second on the team.

He recorded 176 tackles and six interceptions in his career.

"These guys, they don't even worry about [the NFL Draft]. They just play every game like it's their last game and not worry about that kind of stuff."

Omar Hunter

UF defensive tackle

"I had three great years," Elam said. "I did all I can for the team, you know what I'm saying? I played my heart out. I feel like it's time to take care of the family."

Based on projections, UF will have a junior drafted for the first time since 2010.

Defensive end Dominique Easley and linebacker Jelani Jenkins are still contemplating whether or not to return and will have to come

to a decision by the Jan. 15 deadline.

Easley, who had 3.5 tackles for loss in the Sugar Bowl, declined to discuss his future after the game, but said Floyd and Elam's decisions would have no bearing on his.

"It's my life, my decision," Easley said. "I'm not really sure yet. I'll make that decision probably in the next week."

Jenkins missed the bowl game with a fractured right foot. He didn't speak to the media.

He missed four games this season and parts of two others with a broken thumb and a hamstring injury.

Senior defensive tackle Omar Hunter said the juniors did a good job of not letting their NFL prospects affect their preparation.

"Man, I respect it a ton," Hunter said. "When I was a redshirt freshman and seeing some older guys, that's all they talked about. 'NFL, NFL, NFL.' These guys, they don't even worry about that stuff. They just play every game like it's their last game and not worry about that kind of stuff."

Contact Josh Jurnovoy at jjurnovoy@alligator.org.

THREE KEY PLAYS



On Florida's first offensive play, Louisville cornerback Terrell Floyd intercepted Jeff Driskel and returned the interception 38 yards for a touchdown, giving Louisville a 7-0 lead just 15 seconds into the first quarter.



Following a botched onside kick attempt and personal fouls on Florida's Loucheiz Purifoy and Chris Johnson, Louisville quarterback Teddy Bridgewater connected with receiver Damian Copeland for a 19-yard touchdown on the ensuing play. The score gave the Cardinals a 30-10 lead eight seconds into the third quarter.



After a 5-yard Kent Taylor touchdown reception, the Gators had an opportunity to cut a once 20-point deficit to eight. Instead, Louisville defensive end Marcus Smith sacked Jeff Driskel on the two-point attempt, keeping Florida's fourth-quarter deficit at 10 points.



Florida 23, Louisville 33



KEY STAT

64%

Louisville was 9 of 14 on third downs in the Sugar Bowl, an unusually high rate against the Florida defense. During the regular season, the Gators surrendered third-down conversions at a 31 percent rate, which ranked 10th nationally.

TURNING POINT

Trailing 24-10 coming out of halftime, Will Muschamp called for a surprise onside kick by Caleb Sturgis. Louisville recovered the football, and Loucheiz Purifoy and Chris Johnson were each penalized 15 yards on two personal fouls. Louisville scored on the next play to take a 30-10 lead.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	Final
Louisville	14	10	6	3	33
Florida	0	10	0	13	23

STANDINGS

Mike Gillislee 15	Marcus Roberson 3
Matt Elam 12	Jaylen Watkins 3
Sharrif Floyd 9	Trey Burton 2
Jeff Driskel 8	Kyle Christy 2
Loucheiz Purifoy 8	Leon Orr 2
Jon Bostic 3	Jordan Reed 2
Josh Evans 3	

SWAMP STUDS



Sharrif Floyd collected a team-leading two sacks and finished with five tackles. With Louisville looking to increase its 30-10 third-quarter lead, Floyd blocked a 41-yard field goal attempt by Louisville kicker John Wallace.



Matt Elam recorded a team-leading 11 tackles and a sack. With Louisville driving in the fourth quarter, Elam sacked Teddy Bridgewater on second down to help force the Cardinals' first punt of the game.



Dominique Easley finished with five tackles, three and a half of which were for a loss. Easley helped limit Louisville running back Jeremy Wright to an average of 3.4 yards per carry.

WELCOME,

from page 28

gresses, ask Phillip Heilman. Maybe you're curious how the Gators baseball team will fare after the loss of multiple stars to last year's MLB draft. Adam Pincus and Josh Jurnovoy will be happy to discuss the prospects of coach Kevin O'Sullivan's squad with you.

If you're taking Arabic 2 with Pincus, you'll need something to kill time.

Think you know how Billy Donovan and Florida will perform once Southeastern Conference play begins this week? Tweet at beat writers Katie Agostin and Landon Watnick or columnist Greg Luca. Engage them with your analysis.

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FIRE JOE MORGAN

Louisville takes advantage of uninspired Florida team

Louisville wanted to be here. The Cardinals were excited to play in the Sugar Bowl. After winning this year's Big East Conference crown, a trip to the French Quarter was icing on a damn delicious cake.

A reward. Louisville earned a chance to spar with a superpower from the almighty Southeastern Conference. An opportunity to shut up the annoying "S-E-C! S-E-C! S-E-C!" chants.

The Cardinals seized the moment. "We made our statement for the upcoming season," Louisville wide receiver Eli Rogers said after his squad's dominant upset victory. "Versus a team like Florida, this means everything for our program going forward."

The Gators didn't want to be there.

After a magical 11-1 season, Florida watched two other one-loss SEC teams battle for the league title. Alabama and Georgia fought for a spot in the BCS National Championship Game.

The Gators boasted the best resume in college football, but that wasn't enough to earn them

a shot at the national title. They were shut out.

The Sugar Bowl was a consolation prize. Nothing more.

What was in store for Florida had it proved victorious in New Orleans? They don't make rings for 12-win seasons.

At least not the ones people remember.

When was the last time someone asked Jim Kelly to see his four AFC title rings?

Some Gators dreamed of the NFL. Others blew off curfew and partied through the night on Bourbon Street.

The Sugar Bowl was nice, but Florida dreamed of Miami. Notre Dame. The crystal football.

They didn't care about a silly exhibition game. There was nothing more to accomplish. Their season was already over.

Why bother? Gator Nation had the same attitude. Times are tough. The economy is bad. Why blow a lot of money to watch a football game that doesn't even matter?

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The 54,178 fans who attended



Joe Morgan
twitter: @joe_morgan

Those who made the trip came to party. The Sugar Bowl was merely an excuse to ring in the New Year in style.

And they serve alcohol at bowl games, so "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" Go Gators!

Florida didn't care about this game. Neither did its fans.

And who can blame them?

Schools like Louisville dream of the BCS. But until the Sugar Bowl becomes part of a playoff bracket in college football, don't expect the big boys to play their hearts out.

It's wrong. It's lazy. You would expect pride to be at stake, but that is too ideal. Maybe it is too much to ask when a system as flawed as the BCS is in place.

The Cardinals wanted to be here, and they acted like it.

Good for them. They are a promising team headed in the right direction — quickly.

As for the Gators, they fell

the Sugar Bowl marked the lowest turnout for this game since 1939.

short of the ultimate prize. And no bowl victory was going to satisfy that hunger.

So why bother?
Contact Joe Morgan at joemorgan@alligator.org.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Coach Will Muschamp confronts an official during Florida's 33-23 Sugar Bowl loss against Louisville on Wednesday in New Orleans.

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END OF GREGULATION

SEC championship is Florida's to lose

With football season in the rear-view mirror and a two-month non-conference slate complete, Florida basketball is finally ready to step into the spotlight.

On Sunday, UF survived an early scare and overcame Erik Murphy's absence in a drubbing of Yale. Florida carries a 10-2 record into Southeastern Conference play, which tips off with a home matchup against Georgia on Wednesday.

While the conference slate won't be a cakewalk, the Gators should be disappointed with anything less than a title.

In reality, the SEC is a three-team league. Only Florida, Kentucky and Missouri have a legitimate shot at the crown.

As is the case throughout college basketball this season, each of the contenders has legitimate flaws.

Kentucky, as always, is young and talented, but not nearly as talented as last year's group. Nerlens Noel is Worse Anthony Davis and Alex Poythress is Worse Michael Kidd-Gilchrist.

Judging Kentucky's merit is nearly impossible this early in the season. The majority of UK's key players are still adjusting to the college game, and point guard Ryan Harrow has only been a key piece of the rotation for half of the year after dealing with illness and family issues in the early going. The Wildcats will only get better than their 9-4 record as the season rolls on, but their potential is capped compared to last year.

SEC newcomer Missouri is also still learning. After establishing a reputation as a guard-heavy bunch known for giving opponents 40 minutes of hell, the Tigers have switched up their style. Michael Dixon was expected to be one of the best guards in the SEC, but he was kicked off the team on Nov. 29 after mul-



Greg Luca
twitter: @gregluca

tip le allegations of sexual assault came to light.

But even

without Dixon playing a minute this season, the Tigers started strong at 11-2. The arrival of UConn transfer Alex Oriakhi and Laurence Bowers' return from an ACL injury give Missouri a presence in the frontcourt.

Florida plays Missouri and Kentucky twice each, meaning the league will likely be won or lost head-to-head. That could be good news for the Gators, who match up favorably with both contenders.

After rotating three lead guards last year, Missouri has only one, albeit a damn good one in Phil Pressey. Whether UK settles on the sophomore Harrow or freshman Archie Goodwin at the point, UF's press matches up well. Florida should be able to wear down Pressey and force youthful UK into mistakes.

UF will have more good matchups when Kentucky and Missouri get into their half-court offense. Both UF's pesky zone — more common with 5-foot-6 Erving Walker graduating out of the rotation — and collapsing man-to-man should do well against Missouri and Kentucky offenses that rarely rely on jump shooting.

On the other side of the ball, neither team presses well enough or often enough to give UF any real issues.

As long as Murphy's rib injury isn't serious and the Gators keep their balance on offense and intensity on defense, an SEC title is well within reach.

Contact Greg Luca at gluca@alligator.org.

Guard's shooting lifts UF against Yale

BOYNTON'S 28 POINTS
TIED A CAREER-HIGH.

KATIE AGOSTIN
Alligator Staff Writer

After a rough stretch offensively, guard Kenny Boynton rediscovered his shot.

In the Gators' four contests leading up to No. 13 Florida's 79-58 victory against Yale in New Haven, Conn., Boynton averaged only 9.25 points per game on 29 percent shooting from the field.

But Sunday night against the Bulldogs was a different story. Boynton tied a career-high 28 points.

Boynton also helped Florida shoot 60 percent by going 9 of 12, including shooting 8 of 10 behind the arc, the Gators' best shooting percentage since Nov. 14.

"It was good for him to get out of that funk," coach Billy Donovan said. "For someone that's had the kind of slump like he's had ... it was great to see him break out the way he did."

Ending his cold streak wasn't Boynton's only accomplishment Sunday night.

The senior broke Lee Humphrey's record for career three-pointers at Florida, pushing his total to 290.

"It means a lot," Boynton said.

"When I was younger, I came to Florida games, and I watched Lee Humphrey play. He was a great shooter."

Junior Scottie Wilbekin led Florida (10-2) in assists during their 21-point win against Yale (5-11).

Wilbekin recorded a career-high 10 assists, beating his previous best of eight, which he set against UCF on Nov. 23.

Forward Will Yeguete also had a strong night for the Gators.

Despite sustaining an injury to his nose in the first half, Yeguete reentered the game with a

bandage on his cut and put up 14 points, nine rebounds, an assist and a steal during his 27 minutes.

Erik Murphy sat out Sunday's game due to an injury he sustained to his ribs during Friday's practice.

Murphy entered Sunday as UF's second-leading scorer, averaging 12.1 points per game.

Murphy is doubtful for Florida's Southeastern Conference opener against Georgia on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the

O'Connell Center.

Although the Gators may have to play without Murphy as they start their SEC season, Boynton is making sure Florida doesn't get complacent.

"Don't take any team for granted in the SEC because it's basically like a start-over," Boynton said.

"It's a new season."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

Contact Katie Agostin at kagostin@alligator.org.



Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Senior guard Kenny Boynton attempts a shot during Florida's 78-61 victory against Air Force on Dec. 29 in the BB&T Center.

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Quarterbacks vs. UF

Matt Schilz
 ◦ Sept. 1, 2012
 ◦ Bowling Green
 • Florida allowed a season-high 49 pass attempts and 24 completions to the Falcons' junior quarterback. Schilz finished with 204 yards and an interception.

Johnny Manziel
 ◦ Sept. 3, 2012
 ◦ Texas A&M
 • The Heisman tore apart the Florida defense en route to a 17-10 halftime lead. But Texas A&M punted on all six second-half possessions as Florida erased its first halftime deficit of the season.

Tyler Bray
 ◦ Sept. 15, 2012
 ◦ Tennessee
 • Bray completed passes of more than 15 yards while tossing two touchdowns and two interceptions. However, the Volunteers' defense collapsed late against the Gators in Knoxville.

Morgan Newton
 ◦ Sept. 22, 2012
 ◦ Kentucky
 • Senior backup Newton didn't stand a chance against UF, which picked him off three times. Newton gained 82 total yards and completed 7 of 21 passes.

Zach Mettenberger
 ◦ Oct. 6, 2012
 ◦ LSU
 • In the first top-10 matchup of his career, Mettenberger threw more incompletions than completions and never found a rhythm in The Swamp. Florida sacked him four times.

Jordan Rodgers
 ◦ Oct. 13, 2012
 ◦ Vanderbilt
 • Rodgers found leading receiver Jordan Matthews eight times for a game-high 131 yards. The connection wasn't enough as Vanderbilt couldn't stop Florida's ground attack.

Connor Shaw
 ◦ Oct. 20, 2012
 ◦ South Carolina
 • Shaw didn't last past half-time, as Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier pulled him in favor of redshirt sophomore Dylan Thompson. The junior converted 1 of 7 third-down opportunities.

Aaron Murray
 ◦ Oct. 27, 2012
 ◦ Georgia
 • Murray threw for 150 yards with one touchdown and three picks in his worst statistical performance of 2012. Up 10-9 in the fourth quarter, he threw a 45-yard touchdown to put the Bulldogs up by eight.

James Franklin
 ◦ Nov. 3, 2012
 ◦ Missouri
 • Franklin finished 24 of 51 for 236 yards and four interceptions in a spotty performance. Safety Josh Evans intercepted Franklin in the end zone with five seconds left to seal a 14-7 Florida victory.

Terrance Broadway
 ◦ Nov. 10, 2012
 ◦ Louisiana
 • The sophomore quarterback didn't commit any turnovers in what was nearly the biggest upset in Louisiana football history. Broadway completed 16 of 23 passes for 171 yards in the 27-20 loss.

Marques Ivory
 ◦ Nov. 17, 2012
 ◦ Jacksonville State
 • Ivory didn't take advantage of a Jacksonville State defense that forced four Florida field goal attempts. The senior threw one interception in Jacksonville State's season finale.

EJ Manuel
 ◦ Nov. 24, 2012
 ◦ Florida State
 • In his final home game at Florida State, Manuel had a forgettable performance with three interceptions and four total turnovers. His fumble in the fourth quarter led to Florida's go-ahead touchdown.

Teddy Bridgewater
 ◦ Jan. 2, 2013
 ◦ Louisville
 • Bridgewater put on a show against the nation's fifth-ranked defense at the Allstate Sugar Bowl, averaging 13.3 yards per completion. The sophomore threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns while converting 9 of 14 third downs.

Shawn Janetzke and Adam Pincus / Alligator Staff

Louisville quarterback shines in win

ADAM PINCUS
 Alligator Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS— Linebacker Daniel Brown doused coach Charlie Strong with a cooler of yellow Gatorade.

Louisville quarterback Teddy Bridgewater held the game ball above his head as the clock hit zero.

Chants of "Ted-dy" filled the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Confetti fell from the ceiling as Bridgewater reveled in the victory.

He arrived in New Orleans as a beloved figure among Cardinals fans, but left as the Sugar Bowl MVP and an emerging superstar.

The sophomore quarterback from Miami carried No. 22 Louisville (11-2, 5-2 Big East) to its second-ever BCS bowl victory and validated his coach's decision to stay at the burgeoning program instead of taking over a higher-profile team.

Bridgewater dominated the nation's fifth-ranked defense with 266 passing yards and two touchdowns.

Florida's defense, arguably the best unit in the Southeastern Conference, failed to match Bridgewater and his Big East receivers.

A nearly flawless performance put the sophomore in the national spotlight.

"I wouldn't be in this situation right now ... without my teammates," Bridgewater said. "The Heisman campaign may start, but I'm just enjoying this moment."

No. 4 Florida (11-2, 7-1 SEC) already faced Heisman Trophy winner in Johnny Manziel, before allowing a season-high 266 passing yards to Bridgewater on Wednesday. The previous best was 236 yards by Missouri quarterback James Franklin on Nov. 3.

Despite throwing a third-quarter interception, Bridgewater took advantage of a secondary that couldn't solve the Cardinals' quick passing attack.

"Of all the quarterbacks we played, he was the best," Gators defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd said. "He had the best accuracy. Manziel don't compare to him."

Louisville entered the game as

a double-digit underdog. It lost to Connecticut and Syracuse this season. Bridgewater wasn't even 100-percent healthy Wednesday after dealing with wrist and ankle injuries throughout the year.

The quarterback who wears gloves on both hands and stores Bazooka bubble gum in his socks during games surprised the Gators with his complete performance.

"I didn't think he was that good until he showed us different," defensive tackle Dominique Easley said.

Bridgewater converted 9 of 14 third down opportunities, which included 3 of 4 longer than 10 yards out. He completed 7 of 11 passes on third down.

Florida, the nation's 10th-ranked third-down defense at 31 percent conversions allowed, couldn't get Bridgewater off the field.

Strong almost didn't get the opportunity to coach this game-changing quarterback, who already has 23 starts and a BCS bowl victory in his two-year career.

Bridgewater, a standout at prep football power Miami Northwestern

High, was committed to his hometown Hurricanes until he switched to Louisville following the firing of former Miami coach Randy Shannon.

He exhibited toughness and restraint against Florida, especially when linebacker Jon Bostic drilled him and knocked off his helmet on his first pass attempt in the first quarter.

"I give it all to Teddy Bridgewater," Easley said. "He is a great quarterback. He knows how to execute and take control of his team. He broke us apart."

Despite Bridgewater's banner performance, the poor outing from the Florida defense was surprising.

Redshirt senior defensive tackle Omar Hunter found a silver lining in a game with not much to cheer about for Florida.

"Defense didn't execute the way we wanted it to," he said. "But this team will learn from it going forward next year and will be that much better because of it."

Contact Adam Pincus at apincus@alligator.org.



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Louisville quarterback Teddy Bridgewater (5) hands the ball off to running back Jeremy Wright (28) during the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

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Senior gymnast wins 14th all-around title

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CHUCK KINGSBURY
Alligator Writer

As a team primed to return to the NCAA Tournament with hopes of finishing beyond the Super Six, No. 3 Florida kicked off its regular season on a high note.

The Gators opened with a convincing 196.575-190.55 victory against Ball State in a home dual meet on Friday night in the O'Connell Center.

Friday's meet marked the third-highest scoring total in the program's opening history, nearly eclipsing its 196.925 score against Nebraska in 2011.

"We achieved a lot of the goals we were looking to achieve knowing that we weren't really going to have the goal of being 100 percent prepared," coach Rhonda Faehn said.

"It was just a matter of getting new faces out there, new routines and getting our feet wet."

Despite the long offseason, Florida did not disappoint.

Led by senior Ashanee Dickerson and sophomore Kytra Hunter, the Gators outperformed Ball State in every aspect of the meet, posting scores of 49.325 and 49.175 in vault and bars,

respectively.

"The lineups that the coaches put out were perfect for us considering we were coming back from break and had such a short amount of time to train with the team," Hunter said. "We did excellent."

Hunter, who was named the Honda Award winner for gymnastics in 2011, designating her as the nation's top collegiate gymnast, matched her career-best of 9.90 to win the evening's uneven bars title.

She posted the same score in the 2012 NCAA Championships semifinal.

Dickerson set the highest vault and bars score to earn her 14th all-around win and her 60th event title. Dickerson recovered from a fall on the beam with a strong 9.875 floor event.

"I was pleased with how they did and the energy that they had tonight," Faehn said.

The meet couldn't have come any sooner for the Jacksonville native, who was anxious to perform.

"We've been waiting for this since we got back to school, and we've been preparing for it," Dickerson said. "For the last week we've been counting down the days."

Faehn felt the team performed exceptionally well despite a long absence from competition, and noted that she wasn't looking for fine tuning, fluent

dismounts or sticks, but rather controlling nerves.

Faehn positioned Dickerson first in the bars rotation for the first time since her freshman year and revealed Hunter's new tumbling pass.

More importantly, the meet was an opportunity for Faehn to evaluate talent, including freshman Bridget Sloan.

"I wasn't looking at the scores. I was more concerned with how Bridget would do," Faehn said.

"She's incredibly talented and she has this competitive experience, but she's in a completely new environment."

Sloan displayed the same poise and uncanny maturity she developed on the Olympic stage in 2008 as the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic team that medaled silver.

She recorded a 9.925 on her vault routine to earn a share of the night's event title with Dickerson.

Junior Mackenzie Caquatto competed in her first competitive beam performance since the 2011 NCAA Championships, recording a 9.875 to earn the beam title. Caquatto did not participate in UF's beam lineup due to ankle injuries sustained during her tryouts for the U.S. 2011 World Championships.

Florida will face No. 8 LSU on Friday in the Gators' first Southeastern Conference event.



Kelly Logan / Alligator Staff

Senior Ashanee Dickerson performs on the beam against Ball State on Friday in the O'Connell Center.

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Must be 18 years or older, have valid I.D. along with proof of SS# and local residency.
Walk-ins Welcome.

Biotest Plasma Center
1112 N. Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-378-9431
www.biotestpharma.com

The Grog

Bar & Grill
HOUSE

18 & UP

OLD SCHOOL TUESDAYS

\$5 All You Can Drink
Video DJ - JD

FRIDAY

BEAT-THE-CLOCK
(Pitchers start at 25¢)
LIVE DJ

SATURDAY

FREE WELLS
LIVE DJ

1718 West University Avenue



MONDAY
BURGER NIGHT!
\$3 Burgers
\$5 Pitchers

WEDNESDAY
"LADIES" NIGHT*
\$1⁰⁰ Double Wells
\$1⁰⁰ Wine
Starts at 6pm
NO COVER

FRIDAY

\$5⁹⁹ Pitchers
\$5 LITs

SATURDAY

45¢ Wings
\$5⁹⁹ Pitchers
\$5 Bombs

1702 West University Avenue



FRIDAYS

10th Anniversary Party
10¢ Wells
\$3 Pitchers
\$2.13 Burger Baskets

SATURDAYS

\$1 Wells
\$1 Drafts

THREE DOLLAR SUNDAYS

\$3 Pitchers
\$3 Rumpie Shots
\$3 Burger w/FF
59¢ Wings
OPEN TIL 2 AM



1728 West University Avenue



18 & UP

FRIDAY
Old School Night
\$3 Pitchers
10¢ Wells
LIVE DJ

SATURDAY
Top 40, Hip Hop & House
\$1 Wells • \$1 Drafts
LIVE DJ

1728 West University Avenue