

UF women wear hijabs for a day to raise awareness. Read the story on page 4.



WORLD

Locals react to Pope Benedict XVI's resignation

ALEX HARRIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

After serving about eight years as the leader of the Catholic world, Pope Benedict XVI announced Monday that he will resign from his papacy.

Pope Benedict, 85, announced he would step down from his post at the end of February, citing his old age as his reason.

His resignation marks the first time a pope has stepped down from his post in about 600 years.

"I think we have to offer some praise to this person," said David Hackett, UF associate professor of American religious history. "He knows he really can't hold this job right now, and he's recognized his limitations. He realized it, and I think this is great."

Pope Benedict, formerly known as Joseph Ratzinger, was elected pope in 2005 at the age of 78, making him one of the oldest elected popes in history.

Traditionally, the next step is a period of mourning, Hackett said, followed by a gathering of cardinals, known as a conclave, for the election of the new pope. But this situation is anything but traditional.

"What it will be is more of an administrative period," said the Rev. David Ruchinski, pastor of St. Augustine Church. "The sede vacante [the empty seat], which is normally characterized by mourning, in this case is going to be the time that they need to be able to pull together the cardinals for the conclave."

But the timing of Pope Benedict's announcement comes at a busy time for most bishops as Easter is rapidly approaching.

"Since Easter is the time when converts come into the church on Easter Vigil, most bishops wouldn't want to be away from their dioceses," Ruchinski said. "I would think that they wouldn't pull the conclave together until after that."

One such Easter convert is Emily Stowers.

SEE POPE, PAGE 8

Gov. Rick Scott visits UF, discusses top 10 gameplan

It'd get \$15 million yearly

JEWEL MIDELIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gov. Rick Scott discussed his budgeting plans for UF and toured the university's Nanoscale Research Facility during a press conference Monday morning.

State senators, UF officials and students filled the facility lobby as they listened to Scott declare his support of making UF one of the top

10 public universities in the nation.

Scott said he plans to give UF about \$15 million annually for the next five years.

"At the end of that timeframe, we will have a top 10 university," he said.

Although the budget plan still needs legislative approval, Scott said investing in UF will create more jobs throughout the state.

UF President Bernie Machen said

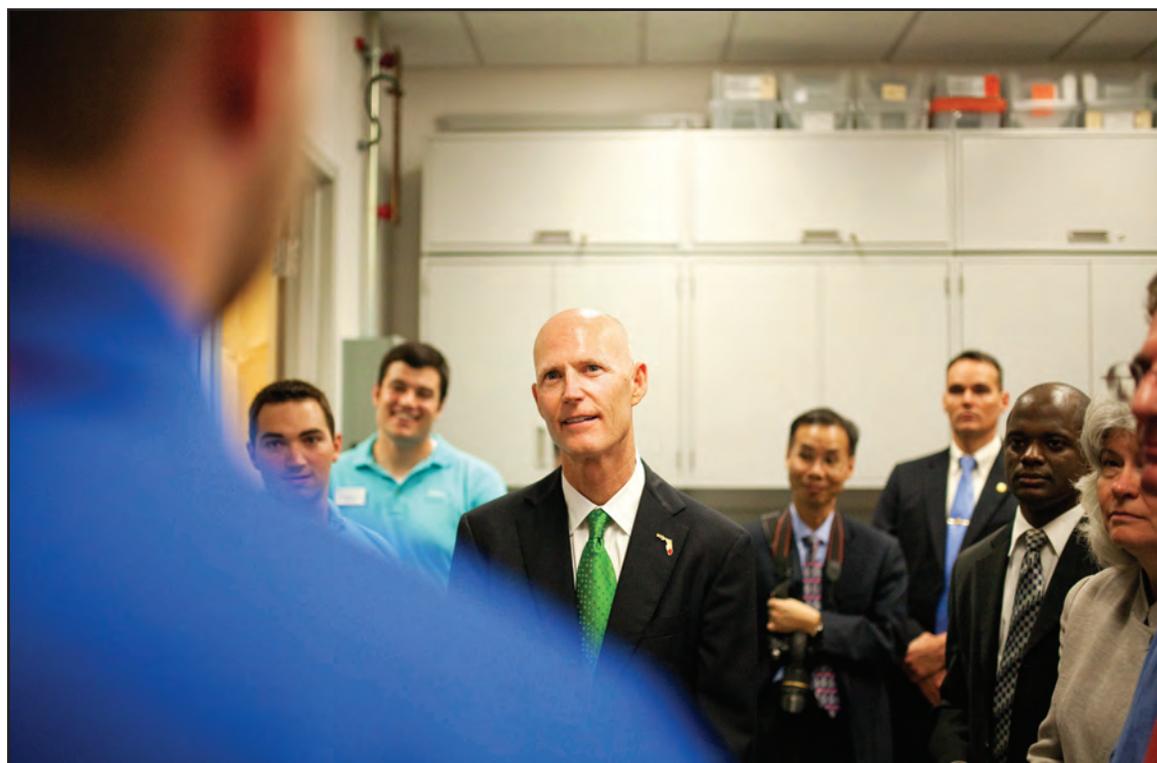
Scott's support for UF displays his commitment to education.

"He recognizes the inextricable link between education and economic development," he said.

Cammy Abernathy, dean of the College of Engineering, said investments like the bonus have allowed her college to be among the best in the country and will make Florida "the home of the next great high-tech hub."

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said if the budget is approved, the

SEE SCOTT, PAGE 8



Javier Edwards / Alligator

Gov. Rick Scott speaks to a UF senior during his tour of the university's Nanoscale Research Facility. Scott plans to give UF about \$15 million annually for the next five years.

Millennials are the most stressed generation, study shows

► THEY RANKED THEIR AVERAGE STRESS LEVEL AS 5.4 OUT OF 10.

JOVAHN HUERTAS

Alligator Contributing Writer

The news that millennials are the most stressed generation does not come as a surprise to UF students.

Environmental science junior Benjamin Robinson, 21, said it sounds about right,

though he doesn't count himself among the highly stressed.

"I don't feel an extreme amount of stress usually, but I know others who have it a lot worse than I do," he said.

The American Psychological Association released last week the results of its annual Stress in America survey, which attempts to measure stress levels and causes of stress in the United States. The survey showed members of the Millennial generation, aged 18 to 33, were more stressed on average than the

"I don't feel an extreme amount of stress usually, but I know others who have it a lot worse than I do."

Benjamin Robinson

environmental science junior

rest of the population.

Participants were asked to rank their stress levels on a 10-point scale, with 10 being "a great deal of stress."

Millennials reported an average of 5.4,

compared to the national average of 4.9, according to the survey.

The survey also showed millennials had the highest rate of depression diagnoses for any generation: 19 percent, compared to 14 percent in participants ages 34 to 47 and 12 percent for participants ages 48 to 66.

The leading cause of stress for millennials was reported as work, followed closely by money. Relationships, family responsibility

SEE STRESS, PAGE 8

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Promotional items attract Birthright sign-ups

Condoms are among the giveaways, pg 4.

New bar, craft beer franchise to open tap on Archer Road

It will sell about beers on draft, pg 9.



Freshmen shine in opening weekend:

Florida softball coach Tim Walton got a lot of production out of his freshmen during the Gators' 5-0 run in the Kajikawa Classic, pg 15.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Cinema Verde: Fourth Annual Environmental Film & Arts Festival

The festival continues through Thursday at Jolie, 6 W. University Ave. The mission is to raise awareness of environmental issues through the arts and to bring people together to implement sustainable solutions. The festival provides environmental education to the public through films, art, workshops, events, tours and other activities. For more information, film trailers and a schedule, visit www.cinemaverde.org. Contact Trish Riley at trish@cinemaverde.org or 352-327-3560, or Penny Niemann at penny@cinemaverde.org.

Toastmasters plans for events

Talking Gators Toastmasters will meet at 5:45 p.m. in the Entomology Building, Room 1031. It is open to everyone. Toastmasters is a public speaking organization that teaches speaking skills in a supportive environment. On Feb. 19, Mark Woollett from Gators Toastmasters will host a session on "Evaluations." Feb. 26 is the annual Speech and Table-Topics Contests. For more information, visit www.talkinggators.toastmastersclubs.org.

UF Hillel Valenstein's Day auction

Want to raise money for a good cause and potentially find a Valentine's Day date? Join UF Hillel for the Valenstein's Day date auction at 8 p.m. All of the money raised will benefit Relay for Life. Please contact Sarah Pollack at tzedek@ufhillel.org with questions.

Black Male Development Initiative

The Black Male Development Initiative presents "Black Men In Society: Past to Present." Explore the contributions, achievements and social influence black men have on America. This event will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Institute of Black Culture, 1510 W. University Ave. For more information, contact BMDI on Facebook at Black Male Development Initiative.

Acupuncture Chinese New Year

The Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine will celebrate Chinese New Year with an open house Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Learn about Chinese medicine with demonstrations, including acupuncture, tui na, cupping, auricular therapy and qigong. Tour the college and acupuncture clinic, listen to music and meet faculty, students and alumni. For more information, call 352-371-2833 or visit 1000 NE 16th Ave., Building F.

FORECAST

| TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PARTLY CLOUDY 79/62 | THUNDER STORMS 77/52 | CLOUDY 64/44 | PARTLY CLOUDY 70/43 | SUNNY 64/35 |

Hackathon

There will be a 24-hour Hackathon at noon Saturday at Gainesville Hackerspace downtown. The purpose of the event is to put a new interface atop the site www.txttag.me and to create mobile apps for it. Programmers and graphic designers are invited. There will be three \$500 cash prizes for the winning individuals or teams for creating an iOS, Android or Web interface for TXT TAG. All of the information and the sign-up sheet is available at www.txttag.me/hackathon.

Phi Kappa Tau presents Safe Sets for the Kids

On Saturday, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity will be putting on its third annual philanthropy "Safe Sets for the Kids," a volleyball tournament benefiting SeriousFun Children's Network. SeriousFun is an organization with summer camps around the world that give terminally ill children a chance to enjoy their summer. The event will take place at the Florida Gym beginning at noon Saturday. Teams will consist of members of the Panhellenic Council who will compete in a single elimination volleyball tournament. On Wednesday, Bella Donna's Italian Eatery on University Avenue, will be donating 10 percent of all proceeds to the philanthropy if customers mention Phi Kappa Tau when ordering. For information, email vicepresident@ufphi-tau.com.

Gainesville Roller Rebels

present the Ol' Barn Dance Dust off the cowgirl boots, put on a Stetson and join the Gainesville Roller Rebels Feb. 16 at Mars Pub for The Ol' Barn Dance. The event will benefit the Gainesville Roller Rebels and feature themed contests, a dance party with beats by DJ Ito and live music from The Ones to Blame, Nook & Cranny and Crunky Tonk Nonstars. Doors open at 10 p.m., and there's a \$5 cover charge. Visit www.bit.ly/grrbarndance for more information.

Spring Break and summer service trips

Bound for Peace 2013 is an international service trip during which volunteers bring hope and empowerment to children

affected by social injustice in Medellin, Colombia. To learn more about the trips or to apply, visit www.boundforpeace2013.weebly.com. Contact service.trip.info@gmail.com with questions.

New study abroad program in Istanbul

Experience Istanbul, an ancient and modern city on two continents, with UF Turkish faculty. The Center for European Studies has a summer study abroad program to this fascinating and cosmopolitan city in Turkey. People don't need to speak Turkish to enroll in the program. Apply now. Contact Emrah Sahin at emrahsahin@ufl.edu for details, or go to www.ces.ufl.edu.

Champions for Change Awards

Nominations for the 2013 Champions for Change Awards are now open and will close March 1. A combination of the Office of Sustainability's Sustainable Solutions Awards and the Healthy Gators Awards, Champions for Change recognizes faculty, staff and students within the UF community who have made significant achievements in the areas of sustainability and health. The awards seek to highlight such achievements in hopes of inspiring others to join the movement of creating a healthier and more sustainable community. Please consider nominating someone to be recognized for their efforts. Self-nominations are also accepted. A full list of nomination categories and the nomination form is available at www.sustainable.ufl.edu/awards.

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

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

Subscription Rate: Full Year (All Semesters) \$100

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

City Commission, mayoral candidates debate during forum

▶ ABOUT 50 PEOPLE ATTENDED.

BILLY KENNEDY
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Alachua County Democratic Black Caucus hosted the second candidate forum of the 2013 Gainesville mayoral and District 4 City Commission campaigns Tuesday night at the Alachua County Administration Building.

The debate began just after 6 p.m. with about 50 people in attendance.

Former Commissioner W.E. "Mac" McEachern was the only participant in the District 4 debate with Alfredo Espinosa, a 20-year-old UF building construction junior, and incumbent Randy Wells was absent.

A volunteer from Wells' campaign said Wells couldn't be at the debate because of a community development committee meeting that conflicted with the forum.

The first segment of the debate focused on the District 4 race.

McEachern said he would work to attract employers to Gainesville and protect neighborhoods from business encroachment. He also mentioned his goal of closing the gap between local government and city residents.

"Commissioners are employees of the citizens," he said.

Mark Venzke, former Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority board member Peter Johnson, Donald Shepherd Sr. and former city commissioners Scherwin L. Henry and Ed Braddy participated in the mayoral debate. Mayor Craig Lowe was not in attendance due to a family emergency.

Among the issues discussed during the debate were the city's biomass facility contract and the Bus Rapid Transit system.

All the mayoral candidates said they would support pulling the city out of the current biomass contract. The facility is set to become operational later this year.

In regards to the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system, Braddy said it's too expensive, adding that city funds should be used to reduce bus wait times in east Gainesville.

BRT features longer, higher-capacity buses and bus-only traffic lanes that allow for the bypassing of traffic congestion. BRT has longer distances between stops than traditional buses. BRT buses have floors the same height as curbs, and covered bus stations.

"(BRT) would be just taking a big pile of money and throwing it in a hole for us to do that," Braddy said.

Venzke proposed implementing it on a trial basis to determine if the system were to work.

Henry said BRT is a good concept, but the



Kristi Camara / Alligator

Candidates debated issues at the Alachua County Democratic Black Caucus forum Monday night at the County Administration Building.

city should focus on improving the current Regional Transit System bus service and fixing roads first.

Johnson said for something like BRT or improved RTS service to work, it must be a viable option for Gainesville residents.



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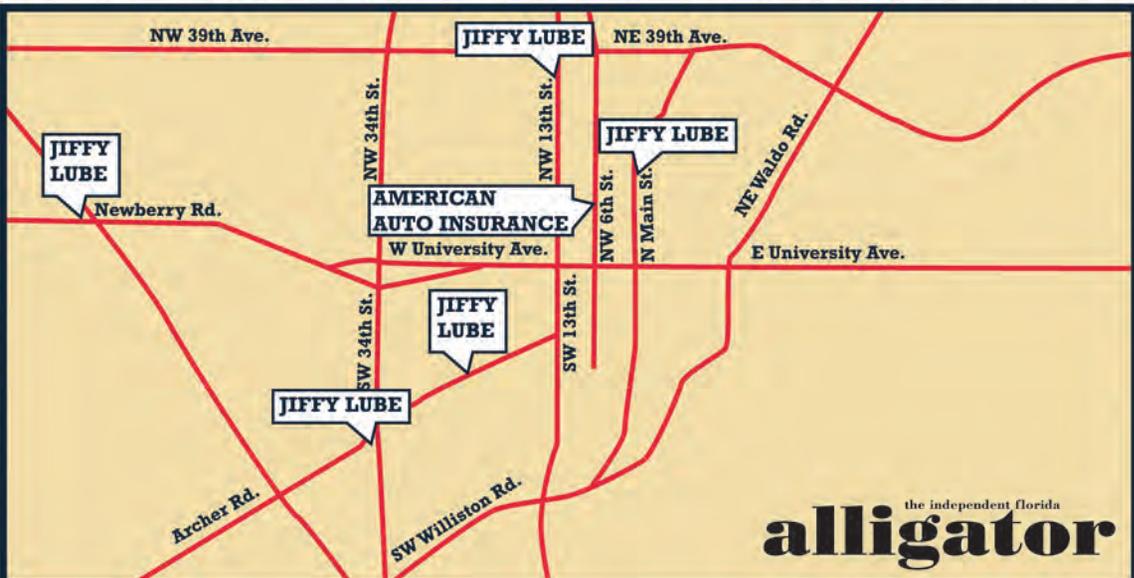
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CAMPUS

UF women wear hijabs for awareness

KATIE BURNS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Women veiled and unveiled Monday.

Islam on Campus invited all women to experience a day wearing a hijab, a veil that covers the head. Participants of "Hijab for a

Day" put on the headscarf in the morning then proceeded with their daily routine.

Sumrah Iqbal, a 20-year-old UF mechanical engineering junior, coordinated the event, which is part of UF's Islam Awareness Month.

This is the first year the orga-

nization has done this, and Iqbal said she was happy with the support the event received.

The organization hosted a discussion Monday evening with about 35 participants who reflected upon their experiences wearing the hijabs with women who wear the headscarf daily.

Students were surprised by the reactions they received.

"It was an amazing experience to be able to understand so much about a culture in just one day," Jessica Thompson, a 21-year-old UF sociology junior, said. "I felt a responsibility to uphold the culture and be sure I was seen respectfully."

Shirley Roseman said she felt empowered by wearing the hijab.

"I realized how much of my personality and how much I focus on my hair as my identity. I was afraid that I would feel significantly insecure putting [the hijab] on," the 23-year-old UF sociology and psychology junior said. "But as soon as I put it on, I felt a lot freer because I didn't have my hair guarding me."



Sarah Fickett / Alligator

Heiba Belal, 21, left, a UF microbiology senior, helps Lisdelys Garcia, 19, a UF biomedical engineering freshman, put on her hijab, a veil that covers the head, on Turlington Plaza on Monday for Islam on Campus' "Hijab for a Day."

Promo items attract Birthright sign-ups

► CONDOMS ARE AMONG THE GIVEAWAYS.

WHITNEY CONGRESS

Alligator Contributing Writer

With security concerns at the forefront of students' thoughts on traveling to Israel, Joshua Kahn found a way to spark conversation about Birthright.

Birthright is a free 10-day trip to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26.

The 28-year-old Jewish agency Israel fellow at UF's Hillel ordered 500 condoms adorned with the phrase "Israel: it's safe to come" and 300 Ping-Pong balls with the saying "Israel: let's bounce," in hopes of raising registration numbers.

UF anthropology sophomore Gavin Casper, 19, noticed the promotional items Kahn was handing out.

"I just think it's really fun-

ny," he said. "I think it definitely spreads the word, but I'm surprised that they're doing something so out there."

That's what Kahn was hoping for.

"When people see us they say, 'Wait, you guys are giving out condoms?' At the bare minimum, it gets people to talk about Israel and gets some people on the website," Kahn said.

Today and Wednesday, UF Hillel staff members will continue handing out items on Turlington Plaza and Plaza of the Americas.

Kahn has already noticed an increase in hits and pre-registration numbers at www.UFIsrael.org.

"Anything that's a little edgy is definitely going to make some people a little uncomfortable," he said. "I think that it's great because it pushes people outside their comfort zone and gives them the ability to look at Israel in a different light."

National Science Foundation chooses professor to lead directorate

He will begin the NSF appointment in March

KAITLYN PEARSON

Alligator Contributing Writer

The National Science Foundation selected a UF engineering professor to serve as assistant director for the Directorate of Engineering, known as the ENG.

UF professor Pramod P. Khargonekar will retain his position at the university while leading the ENG directorate with an annual budget of more than \$800 million.

He said he is "most excited about the opportunity to provide leadership in engineering research and education."

ENG invests in frontier engineering research and education, cultivates an innovation ecosystem and develops the next-generation engineer, according to a press release.

Khargonekar served as the dean of the College of Engineering from 2001 to 2009. Most recently, he has been a member of NSF's Engineering Advisory Committee, where he provided guidance to ENG on strategic directions, according to the release.

Kyle Collins, a 22-year-old UF electrical computer engineering senior, said he was excited to see a professor who teaches in his major receive this recognition.

"I've always known that our program is extremely, extremely good, and this just kind of solidifies that even more."

Kyle Collins

UF electrical computer engineering senior

"I've always known that our program is extremely, extremely good, and this just kind of solidifies that even more," he said.

Khargonekar's engineering research encompasses smart grid and renewable energy, semiconductor manufacturing, and modeling

and control of neural systems.

Khargonekar said he believes his appointment will enhance visibility and recognition for both the College of Engineering and UF. He will begin his NSF appointment in March.

"When someone gets recognized this highly for what he does, it certainly looks good on the university," Collins said.

NSF Director Subra Suresh said in the release that Khargonekar brings leadership and creativity in engineering research.

"He has helped pioneer interdisciplinary efforts between the biological and engineering research communities and demonstrated a deep appreciation for developing the STEM workforce, which is an NSF priority," Suresh said.

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LOCAL Robotics company finds new home in GRU warehouse



Lauren Troncoso / Alligator

Program managers Patrick Seidel, 53, left, and John Morgan, 32, discuss plans about aircraft Four Delta on Saturday at the Power District Catalyst Building east of Kelly Power Plant.

KELCEE GRIFFIS

Alligator Writer

A formerly vacant downtown warehouse has become the new launchpad for a Gainesville robotics manufacturing company to take off.

Prioria Robotics Inc. moved into a previously Gainesville Regional Utilities-owned 20,000-square-foot warehouse Thursday after the city funded a \$2.25 million, 14-month renovation project for the building.

Prioria manufactures small, unmanned aerial vehicles primarily for the U.S. military, said Bryan da Fronta, Prioria CEO and a UF alumnu.

The company produces airplanes with two- to five-foot wingspans and drones that could take off and land.

Da Fronta said he chose to move his company, which has been operating in Gainesville for almost 10 years, from a Wells Fargo building located at 104 N. Main St., because he needed more space

for production but wanted to stay connected to downtown.

"We didn't want to be out in the middle of nowhere," he said.

Lynn Janoski, Community Redevelopment Agency finance manager, said the city purchased the warehouse from GRU for redevelopment and is renting the space to Prioria.

The long-term lease, which began Thursday, will last for seven years, she said.

Since July, Janoski said, the warehouse has gone through a transformation from industrial storeroom to a functional office space.

"The building had almost no windows," she said. "It was pretty much an open space with plywood walls before. Just a shell — very basic."

Janoski said the city will recoup the millions it pitched into the renovation through the lease.

"Over time, the rental revenues will pay back the investments," she said.

'Banging With Friends' mobile app assists in hookup process

▶ IT USES FACEBOOK.

ALYSSA NIEVES

Alligator Contributing Writer

Looking for a quick romantic rendezvous?

Well, there's an app for that.

"Bang With Friends," a Facebook application launched last month, assists the hooking up process and extinguishes the sting of rejection.

The company website uses a condom application visual aid to explain how the app works. Users can choose their Facebook friends who use the app who they wish to "bang." Both parties receive a noti-

fication email only if the interest is mutual.

Alan Medrano, a 22-year-old UF musical theatre senior, said he is not surprised the app exists. He said he sees it as a tool people can use.

"I prefer building a relationship and talking, so something like that wouldn't work for me," Medrano said. "But there are some people who are looking for a one-time thing. Or maybe they're shy, and this is the way to get them in the door."

The app had about 20,000 registered users four days after it launched, according to an article by www.TheDailyBeast.com.

Medrano said he believes men

will make up the primary user demographic and women would be much less interested in the app.

UF psychology professor Laurie Mintz said research indicates male pleasure is prioritized in hookups involving sex.

"Research finds that women are less likely to have orgasms and report being satisfied in hookup sex than are men," Mintz said.

Mintz discussed hookup sex with her human sexuality class and said some student comments pertained to women feeling pressured to engage in hookup sex.

Kristen Croft, an 18-year-old UF industrial and systems engineering

freshman, said she does not foresee a lot of women using the app, including herself.

"Research finds that women are less likely to have orgasms and report being satisfied in hookup sex than are men."

Laurie Mintz

UF psychology professor

"I honestly think that's kind of grimy in general," she said. "I would like to think no one would put themselves out there like that. It's very controversial."

Although Croft said social media

has aided communication between partners overall, she thinks apps like "Bang With Friends" discourage flirting and reduce the conversation between men and women simply to, "Hey, let's get it on."

Medrano agrees. He said the app takes away from the excitement of personal interaction.

"I'd say communication has changed compared to how previous generations expect communication to be," he said. "A couple years ago, I would have been surprised to hear about the app, but with all the different social networking sites and ways to meet people, it just seems like the next step."

Perfectly Imperfect 2013

Gators Come In Every Shape and Size

Tuesday, February 12th 6:30pm-8:30pm
Cover Girl Culture Film Screening @ Reitz Union Cinema
 Join us for a screening of *Cover Girl Culture: Awakening the Media Generation*, a documentary exploring the impact of media on our society. Through exclusive interviews with the editors of Teen Vogue and Elle magazines the film takes a hard look at the fashion industry and the messages it conveys to young people.

Thursday, February 14th 10am-12pm
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Editorial

Mondays are for quitting: The pope is just like us

“The pope has just broken a taboo by breaking with several centuries of practice,” Cardinal André Vingt-Trois, archbishop of Paris, told *The Guardian*, praising the move as a “liberating act for the future.”

That’s right, folks. The pope broke up with God.

In a move that hasn’t happened in about 600 years, Pope Benedict XVI resigned from his office this week.

“Norbert Deneff, from north Germany, who was abused as a boy by his local priest for six years and was later offered €25,000 (then £17,000) by his diocesan bishop to keep quiet, said: ‘We won’t miss this pope,’” according to *The Guardian*.

It was not a fun papacy, but really, when has there ever been a fun papacy? Plenty of sexual abuse scandals and Nazi jokes galore, and here we are eight years later.

It’s like the pope is graduating along with the current senior graduating class of UF. Our time here on campus actually sounds a lot like Benedict’s time in the Vatican.

His 89-year-old brother, Georg Ratzinger, according to *The Guardian* article, said, “Age is weighing on him. My brother would like more rest at this age.”

We feel ya. We’ve been at this school for four years, and enough is enough. We’d also like to resign, but we don’t have that kind of freedom. What do you think the pope will do now that he’s a single man out on the town? Breaking up with God is probably a pretty liberating experience.

Will he take a year off and study abroad? Will he go on as many dates as “*The Bachelor*”? Will he go to grad school, like some of us might? Maybe he’ll try to make it in the Big Apple or the City of Angels over on the West Coast. He’s got some options. So do we.

“This is disconcerting, he is leaving his flock,” said Alessandra Mussolini, a parliamentarian who is granddaughter of Italy’s wartime dictator, according to a Reuters article. “The pope is not any man. He is the vicar of Christ. He should stay on to the end, go ahead and bear his cross to the end. This is a huge sign of world destabilization that will weaken the Church.”

Listen, maybe he just needed some time to find himself. He has to learn to love himself before he can love others.

“In his announcement, the pope told the cardinals that in order to govern ‘... both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me,’” the Reuters article said.

Sometimes we need to take mental health breaks while studying, so it doesn’t get too intense or stressful. We don’t blame the pope for stepping down at all. We get it. It’s time to move on to bigger and better things. Most world leaders seem to accept his decision with heavy hearts and understanding.

By Easter, a new pope will be selected, just like the next class of Gators. Are you ready for change?

Because if the pope knows when to step down and make hard life decisions, we should, too.

Reader response

Today’s question: Do you feel overly stressed?

Monday’s question: Do you remember the day you were accepted into UF?

88% YES
12% NO
122 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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LAKE MALIGE

By Brad Hersch, Dan LeVine & Paul Rosenberger

Tweets All / No replies

- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 6 Feb
I ask the Roman Catholic community to pray for @frank_ocean in his Grammys quest. #NoChurchInTheWild #SoTrue
- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 10 Feb
@frank_ocean Yo Frankie you got dis. Imma quit my papacy if you don't win Best Album! Haha! #JustKidding #ButSeriously
- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 10 Feb
@TheGRAMMYS Are you KIDDING me? Your program is a joke!! "Babel" is appropriately titled cuz all I hear is babbling on it. #DumbfordAndSons
- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 10 Feb
A final message: God cannot exist in a world where @MumfordAndSons beats out my boi Ocean. Nothing makes sense anymore. I quit. #PopeOut
- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 10 Feb
Wait! One more thing. Follow my new kickass recipe blog on Twitter! @BenedictEggsBenedict13 #Omnomnom
- Dan** @DanTheNapkin 10 Feb
@Pontifex Can I have your hat?
Expand
- Benedict XVI** @Pontifex 10 Feb
@DanTheNapkin No.

Column

‘No dating’ rule in J-Pop is just baffling

Having ridiculously good-looking, teenage heartthrobs in pop music is not a new concept. It didn’t start with One Direction, it didn’t start with *NSYNC, and it didn’t even start with The Beatles, but I will venture to say it has been perfected by Japan.

Japan has put such a formulated expertise on its pop music that it’s created a new name for a genre casually referred to as J-pop.

Full of beautiful girls-next-door and handsome, sensitive men who can all sing and dance, J-pop is nothing short of a pop culture cash cow. It makes sense, in a way, that bands’ management teams would have a pretty big say in the goings-on.

But being contractually obligated to not date anyone seems like a new one to me.

Minami Minegishi is a member of the J-pop group AKB48 and is now in serious hot water because — gasp — she was seen coming out of a boy’s apartment after they had spent the night together.

This sounds like any day of the week for American celebrity news, but for Minegishi, this was scandalous because AKB48 has a strict no dating rule for the band’s about 90 members.

Why would a group’s management team forbid 90 girls in their mid-teens and early 20s to date?

Simple. They don’t want to shatter the illusion that the male fans of AKB48 still stand a chance with the members. It’s a concept that is alive and well in any other girl or boy band — the beautiful people you see on the screen are untouchable, but in some way, only yours.

AKB48’s management just did the logical, but ethically questionable, act of locking in that fantasy by having the girls sign on the dotted line.

When found out by paparazzi, Minegishi shaved all of her hair off in repentance and took to YouTube in a tearful apology, where she called her actions thoughtless and immature and begged the band to let her stay on as a member.

I don’t think too many people will fault you for that one, dear.

Although your management team is trying its best to



Lauren Flannery
opinions@alligator.org

market its chaste army, you will still be living every day with teenage girls that, shockingly, like teenage guys.

You’ve pitted your biology against your income, and in every single way, it’s a volatile combination.

Looking at the news articles, it struck me how much of a cultural

divide there was here. I don’t think any U.S. celebrity would ever agree to such a rule — much less tearfully apologize when they’ve inevitably broken it.

It took Britney Spears how many failed marriages, drug rehabilitations and psychotic breakdowns to shave her head, and this girl does it after one little sleepover.

And do you know how many times Britney Spears has apologized for her constant train wreck of decision making? Never.

In that way, I am strangely proud to call myself American.

Is AKB48’s management a bit screwy for mandating such a rule? Some would say they are just giving audiences what they want. If there are girls who know about the rule and are still willing to sign on to get pop star glory, then by all means, let them.

On the other hand, some could say, who is anyone to dictate this very personal part of another’s life? Who the heck does some music producer think he is to outlaw the normal behavior of teenage girls just to see the profits rise?

Honestly, I am just glad we wouldn’t have a debate like this stateside.

Now, whenever I go to the checkout line at Publix and see the tabloid headlines of beautiful people making terrible decisions, I will take solace in the fact that our celebrities live their lives regardless of their public images, for better or worse.

Lauren Flannery is a business administration sophomore at UF. Her column runs on Tuesdays.

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

Guest column

Peace Corps celebrates UF's grads, but current students are left in the dark

Peace Corps' announcement this week that UF leads the nation in alumni recruits is a testament to UF's longstanding connection with one of America's most respected volunteer service organizations. UF recruited 107 undergraduate and 26 graduate alumni volunteers in 2012 and tied with the University of Washington for the No.1 spot. UF's future connection to the Peace Corps remains uncertain, however, and for once, it isn't UF's fault.

Peace Corps is dedicated to placing volunteers in jobs abroad to live in foreign nations as trained workers and goodwill ambassadors. From its founding in 1961, Peace Corps has had a history of success, and UF grads consistently show themselves to be enthusiastic to make the goals of service a reality year after year.

And yet, current students find themselves on campus this year without a recruiter to turn to.

This is in stark contrast to years past, when students turned to Amy Panikowski, who worked on campus for seven years as Peace Corps' recruiter and sent hundreds of UF alumni abroad.

Peace Corps volunteers sign two years of their lives away to a cause they believe is bigger than themselves, and Panikowski consistently brought that to fruition with her support. You couldn't find someone who loved the Peace Corps more than her, and it showed in everything she did. She visited classrooms, hosted Globe Talk presentations, organized a dedicated group of interns, always kept an upbeat attitude and was constantly available by email, phone or office hours.

Diana Dombrowski
Speaking Out

To see both Panikowski and her beloved UF community treated like this by an organization whose popularity and staying power is based on the willing enthusiasm of its volunteers is confounding. Rarely would a program ranked so high see its recruiting staff cut without any plans for growth or replacement.

Panikoswki lost her job as a result of red tape and infighting, and Peace Corps never accepted a replacement, meaning they also lost their most valuable link to UF.

Leaving UF in the dark this year is a glaring error by Peace Corps' bureaucracy that got lost in the shuffle somewhere at headquarters, but it will have a very clear impact with supporters in Gainesville.

UF has always been proud of its alumni serving abroad, and Gainesville is continually enriched by the presence of its returned Peace Corps volunteers.

But the lack of direct access on campus will inevitably mean a shrinking presence of the Gator Nation in Peace Corps.

There is no way a recruiter available mostly by phone and email, with several scheduled visits a semester, can accomplish what Amy Panikowski did as a campus recruiter every day she came to work.

UF has ranked in the upper tiers of Peace Corps' top-recruiting schools for years. As a land-grant, sea-grant and space-grant university with more than 100 undergraduate majors in 16 colleges, supported by about 200 research, service and education centers, it is no surprise why. Last year, even Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams visited UF's campus to announce the beginning of a Master's International program here and congratulate the Gainesville community on its impressive service record.

The character of UF and our alums will remain the same. Gators are well educated, altruistic and ready to serve, but it is up to Peace Corps to make the connection between a potentially fantastic volunteer and the opportunity for them to do good work. That comes from a recruiter with a friendly smile, an open door and facts in her hand. Our university deserves that kind of concrete support, rather than a glancing recognition, from the organization our alumni continue to serve with such distinction.

Peace Corps will be holding its first information session of the semester Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the International Center in the Hub.

Diana Dombrowski is a research staff member in the UF history department.

Guest column

Voter suppression really needs to stop

During the 2012 election, many voters were forced to wait in line for hours to cast a ballot or had to cast a provisional ballot. If you're a college student and this happened to you, you can thank Rep. Dennis Baxley and Alachua County GOP Chair Stafford Jones.

Three years ago, when Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe won his election by 42 votes, Jones and his friends in the Republican Party claimed college students were part of an elaborate conspiracy to get voters to change their residency for one day in order to vote. The Alachua County Supervisor of Elections office found absolutely no evidence of any sort of conspiracy. Later, even Jones admitted he had no proof to his claim.

However, a lack of facts hasn't stopped the GOP before. Despite any evidence of a real problem, Jones worked with Republican Rep. Baxley to make it harder for college

students to vote. The law Baxley sponsored prevented students from voting if they did not change their residency to Alachua County at least a month before the election. Before the law, a student from another county could still vote in Gainesville on the day of the election, as long as election officials verified they had not voted in any other county.

Students who did not change their residence by October were forced to cast provisional ballots, which are notorious for never being counted due to the strain it puts on the Supervisor of Elections office. Baxley's law worked: Provisional ballots increased by an average of 25 percent in each county. Early voting hours were also restricted, and students were among the many Democratic-leaning groups that were forced to wait in longer lines to vote, in some cases for more than an hour.

I find it appalling that elected

Christina Ford
Speaking Out

representatives, namely Rep. Baxley and his Republican allies in Tallahassee, think it's OK to restrict our voting rights. Voting in a city where most of us live 10 months out of the year is not "stealing an election" — it is participating in our right to democracy.

If you were one of the those students who had to cast a provisional ballot or are as equally offended by Baxley and Jones' attempts to limit our voting rights as I am, I encourage you to come out and vote in the mayor's race on March 19.

We have a stake in this election, and we deserve to have our voice heard and our votes counted.

Christina Ford is the director of youth outreach for the Craig Lowe re-election campaign.

Guest column

Anti-gun is the same as anti-woman

In the midst of all the anti-gun rhetoric being spewed from Capitol Hill, it is surprising to me that the person leading the anti-gun charge is a woman.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), as many of you know, has been vehemently pushing for a resurrection of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban in yet another governmental attempt to lobotomize personal behavior, destroy property rights, disarm our citizenry and broaden gun control.

Usually, the pro-gun, anti-government, Tea Party-esque arguments are aligned with the far right, libertarians or market anarchists who are pigeonholed as Ron Paul-loving, Gadsden flag-flying types. But I think it's time that women, especially women who identify themselves as feminists, jump on the pro-gun bandwagon.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, one out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

Compare those numbers to the 3 percent of men who fall victim to sexual assault, and it becomes apparent who is committing sexual violence and who the victims are.

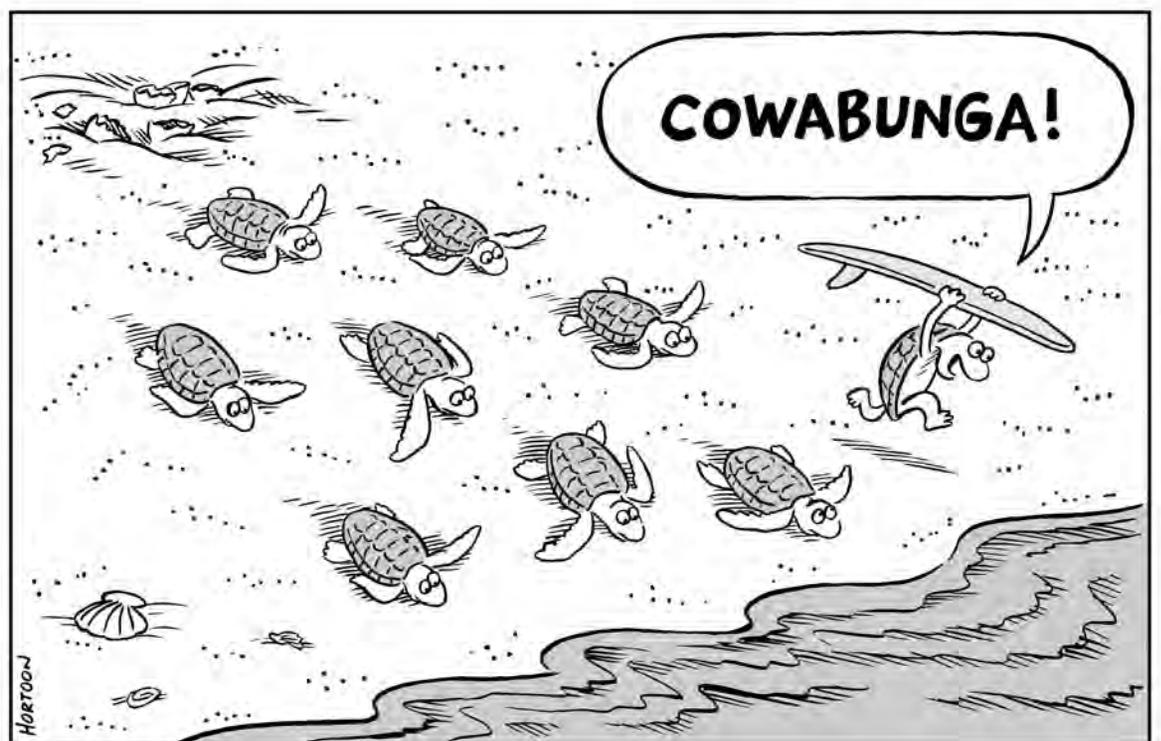
Thomas Ryan
Speaking Out

Now, the reason why being anti-gun is equivalent to being anti-women is that disarming society, or even suggesting an increase of impediments when purchasing a firearm (waiting periods, increased background checks) is that, at worst, these measures disarm women and, at best, make it harder for women to arm themselves.

Because women fall prey to sexual violence much more often than men, it can be argued that women, more than any other demographic, need access to the use of lethal force and self-defense. Although hypothetical — and hopefully only momentarily hypothetical at that — imagine how disincentivizing rape and sexual assault would be if more women had access to and were encouraged to carry — or at least own — firearms.

If feminists, and women in general, are serious about the rape epidemic, anti-woman politicians, such as Feinstein, should be abandoned by said constituencies.

Thomas Ryan is a political science major at Santa Fe College.



CAMPUS

DJ removed from fraternity party for intoxication, claims drugged

KATHRYN VARN

Alligator Writer

An Arizona disc jockey left a fraternity party in an ambulance Saturday night after University Police reported he was too intoxicated to finish his performance.

David Joseph Lopez Jr., 21, also known as Luminox, was taken to Shands at UF from a Sigma Alpha Epsilon party, according to a UPD police report.

At about 9:30 p.m., UPD officers monitoring the party called dispatch to report there was a "highly intoxicated person" at the event, according to the report.

When an additional officer arrived at the house, SAE president Alexander Barrett led the officer to the second-floor bathroom, where they found Lopez talking to paramedics.

Police reported that Lopez was "confused and disoriented" during his conversation with officials, according to the report.

Lopez's manager, Miguel Alfonso Granado, 22, told UPD Lopez was too intoxicated to finish his set and had to be escorted off-stage before he could finish, according to the report. An ambulance later took Lopez to the

hospital for treatment.

The next day, Lopez tweeted that a girl had stuck a lollipop laced with drugs into his mouth before the event.

"My apologies for anybody who came to see me last night in Gainesville at the SAE court yard #roofied," he wrote.

In an interview Monday night, Granado said doctors believed Lopez had been drugged, citing that his blood alcohol content was 0.05 percent.

However, Granado said doctors believe Lopez was drugged off-campus before heading to the SAE party.

Shands at UF personnel couldn't be reached for comment to confirm Lopez and Granado's claims.

In an email, Barrett said he did speak to Granado about Lopez and the incident.

"All necessary steps were taken to ensure [Lopez's] health and safety," he wrote. "The event was registered with the university, there were multiple police officers present per university guidelines and no other incidents took place."

Lopez could not be reached for comment.

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



Kristi Camara / Alligator

David Joseph Lopez Jr., 21, known as Luminox, performs at Sigma Alpha Epsilon on Saturday night. Lopez was taken to Shands at UF after he was too intoxicated to finish his set.

People were surprised

POPE, from page 1

Stowers, a 19-year-old UF English and political science sophomore, has been in Catholic conversion classes since December.



Benedict

She said she was surprised about Pope Benedict's resignation.

"I'm a new Catholic, and I didn't know that the pope could resign," she said.

As of Monday night, official timetables for the conclave and voting process have not been announced.

Ruchinski said he, along with almost a billion other Catholics around the world, will have to wait for the election of the new pope.

"We'll pray for the current pope, for his health and the ease of transition and for peace of mind as he takes this step," he said. "And then, for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that those who gather for the conclave can choose wisely and choose well."

UF to hold first Spring Family Weekend
Registration is still open

ALYSSA FISHER

Alligator Contributing Writer

To show how important Gator families are to the UF community, the Division of Student Affairs is hosting the first all-campus Family Weekend Feb. 22 through Feb. 24.

Family Weekend is a tradition at UF that is geared toward first-year students.

But because not all first-year students are able to participate during their first Fall semester, Assistant Dean and Director of New Student and Family Programs Jaime Gresley said Spring would be a great time to open up the campus.

"We really value all our family members and want to make sure they have a chance to come back and have a designated weekend

full of activities so that they can reconnect [with their kids], regardless if their child is a first-year student or not," Gresley said.

Family Weekend registration ends Feb. 18, and everyone who comes will receive a free Family Weekend beanie.

About 400 students have already registered, and Gresley expects about 1,000 students in total.

Family Fest, the signature event, will be held Feb. 23 on the UVS Field and will include a large carnival with a 160-ft. zip line. The Campus Diplomats will be facilitating many of the events and booths, said Campus Diplomat Executive Director Deanna Thornton, 21.

"[Spring Family Weekend] will be a lot larger [than the one in Fall]," the management junior said.

"Come with an attitude to experience a lot of different things. There are really cool events, like the zip line, that you never get to do."

This is also a weekend full of sports, something families don't get to experience in the Fall.

Families can see men's basketball, women's tennis, lacrosse, gymnastics and baseball games.

Under the theme "Always Orange, Forever Blue," Gresley said the Division of Student Affairs is trying to get the message across that UF students are Gators "true and true."

In doing so, the event is also opened to graduate students.

"Being a Gator is a special experience, and there's a lot of pride that typically goes along with that," Gresley said. "We want to give them the chance to share that with their family members who play a big supporting role."

Tj Villamil said most of the money will go to hiring faculty

SCOTT, from page 1

university plans to match the \$15 million.

UF Student Body President Tj Villamil said the majority of the money will be spent on hiring more faculty members.

"We will reduce the faculty-to-student ratio because that is one of the only metrics that we are not with our peers on," he said. "That is the one thing we are lacking in."

Villamil, 23, said he believes the bonus will help make UF a top 10 school.

"I think we already are on the caliber of the top 10," he said. "But we need the financial resources to really push us over the edge."

Machen said UF will have to meet requirements for the next five years to receive the annual bonus.

"The governor has made it very clear that performance counts, and we like to play in a ballgame where performance really does mat-

"I think we already are on the caliber of the top 10."

Tj Villamil

UF Student Body President

ter," he said.

Machen added the governor's interest in making UF a top 10 school was the reason he stayed president.

"It was an unbelievable moment," he said. "I could not pass it up."

Among other budget plans, Scott said he wants to disperse \$3.8 billion for public universities and \$1.1 billion for state colleges.

Although Scott selected UF for the \$15 million bonus, he said he would work with any state university that wanted to be in the top 10 nationally.

Scott said he made tough budgeting choices during the past two years, and now, he added, was time to make "smart" choices.

"This is just the beginning," he said.

Gators often report academic stressors like workload, time management

STRESS, from page 1

ties and the economy were also frequently named sources.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services specialist Sara Martin said although many of the major stress factors in the survey are similar to what she hears from students, it did not mention one major factor.

"The biggest stressors I hear from students are academic," she said. "Sometimes it's about the workload and learn-



Martin

ing how to manage time, while sometimes it relates more to internal and external pressures students feel to be successful."

Martin, who is also a wellness coach, said not all stress is bad, and sometimes it keeps people motivated.

"But it's important to manage stress levels so they don't affect daily life," she said.

Robinson said when he does feel stressed, it's usually because of work, classes and other commitments competing for his time.

"When that happens, I try to take a step back and put things in order of importance," he said.

Martin suggested stressed out students take advantage of GatorWell and other on-campus services.

"There are so many good, free resources at UF," Martin said. "It's important that students reach out."

New bar, craft beer franchise to open tap on Archer Road



Lauren Troncoso / Alligator

The Brass Tap, a craft-beer franchise, will be opening a location in Gainesville at 3833 SW Archer Road, Building B, on Monday.

It will sell about 60 beers on draft

HANNA MARCUS

Alligator contributing writer

In a college town like Gainesville, there's a bar on every corner.

But Allen Hessell is convinced he can bring something new to the table.

Hessell is the owner and operator of The Brass Tap and is planning to open his new bar, located at 3833 SW Archer Road, Building B, Monday.

The Brass Tap, a craft-beer franchise that recently merged with Beef 'O' Brady's, has three other locations in Florida.

Hessell said he wanted to be a part of the chain after he went to a franchise exposition.

"The craft beer business is exploding right now," he said. "I wanted to get in from the beginning because it's so exciting."

With about 250 bottles of beer and about 60 different types of draft beer from all over the

world in stock, Hessell said his bar will offer the most diverse beer drinking experience in the city.

Matt Martin, bartender and shift manager at the Brass Tap, said the bar's menu will feature five types of beer from Swamp Head Brewery, as well as wine, cider and cigars.

"It's a place for craft beer drinkers to gather and convene. There's a lot to craft-beer drinking, and this is the place to find out about it."

Matt Martin

bartender and shift manager

Martin and Hessell said they both hope their diverse beer will attract customers with a range of beer tastes.

"It's a place for craft beer drinkers to gather and convene," Martin said. "There's a lot to craft-beer drinking, and this is the place to find out about it."

CAMPUS

Holocaust scholar will visit campus, speak of research

DANIELLA DE LA CAMPA

Alligator Contributing Writer

Holocaust scholar Alan Rosen will be speaking at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Pugh Hall on UF's campus.

The event, part of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, will stress the importance of the experiences Holocaust survivors faced in concentration camps, said Paul

Ortiz, associate professor in history and director of the history program.

"This event will ask us to think about the larger impact the Holocaust will continue to have today," Ortiz said.

Rosen has researched some of the earliest historical interviews conducted with Holocaust survivors. These interviews, conducted



Rosen

Boder."

Rosen has a doctorate in litera-

ture and religion from Boston University, where he studied under renowned Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel, according to a press release.

Scott Kraff, a 22-year-old UF history and political science senior, has been involved with the history program research staff for a year.

Kraff works with the technical crew and helps with the setup

of the programs provided by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

"I think it's a unique experience to go to," Kraff said. "As a student of the Holocaust, it doesn't get much better than this."

The event will have free parking, and there will also be a reception and book signing after Rosen speaks.

SIGN ON TO ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!

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|------------|--|
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| 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 Sate 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 |
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\$450/mo incl utils, WiFi, furnished master suite in home near UF/Mid-Downtown w/ 3 other quiet adults, 2 cats (dog OK). Free parking, easy bike/bus. No couples. E: ROOM@COX.NET or Ph.352-338-1113. 2-15-13-7-1

2 For Rent unfurnished

Empty Space? Find your next tenants in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND to place your ad today!

QUIET, CLEAN. LOTS OF GREEN
1br \$375. 2br \$425 372-1201, 213-3901
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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.elliesshouses.com 352-215-4991 or 352-215-4990 12-11-13-167-2

2 For Rent unfurnished



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

Now leasing 1 & 2 BR Apts
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.
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www.efnproperties.com
rentals@efnproperties.com
4-24-13-72-2

LAKWOOD VILLAS
Large 1,2 & 3BR floorplans starting at \$665.
Free Hi-Speed internet, washer/dryer, fitness center, computer lab, swimming pool etc. M-F 9-6, Sat. 10-3
700 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-371-8009
www.lakewoodvillas.com
4-24-13-72-2

PET'S PARADISE
\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee.
1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099
2-28-13-38-2

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

2 For Rent unfurnished

\$500 - Walk 1 block to Shands, vet sch, campus. \$50 of utils paid, 1 BR apt. Carpeted, tiled, spotless, pool, parking, quiet, prefer mature quiet tenants, cats allowed, , 352 284 3873 or postj@bellsouth.net. Available. 2-22-13-35-2

★ **CAMPUS EDGE CONDO** ★
2/2 Walk to UF, Shands, VA & Pharm School. Tile floor, W/D in unit. Avail fall. Reasonable rates. 239-300-1294 2-28-13-30-2

QUIET AFFORDABLE LIVING
Immediate 1/1, 2/1s
Call for Newly Reduced Rates!
1/2 mi to UF, 3 bus routes
Midtown parking, bike trail to UF
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4-24-13-61-2

One Bedrooms from \$350,
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close Sante Fe, I75, Oaks Mall, RTS 75
Call Today 352-332-5070
3-11-13-30-2

2,3,4 & 5BR HOUSES, BLOCKS TO UF.
Rent directly from owner, no intermediary. Pets OK, dalyproperties.com or 352-359-3341/359-5584 2-28-11-27-2

UPPER WESTSIDE
Spacious 1 & 2 bdrm luxury apts.
Walking distance to UF & stadium.
Now leasing for fall 2013.
Free Hi-Speed internet.
Parking avail. 328 NW 14th Street
352-872-4644 www.upperwestsideuf.com
4-24-13-55-2

SPYGLASS
Individual Leases. Furniture pkgs. incl Washer/Dryer & FREE Hi-Speed internet. Rates start at \$399. Every unit an end unit. Mon-Fri 9-6 Sat. 10-5
701 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-373-6330
www.spyglassapts.com
4-24-13-55-2

\$450 clean, quiet, spacious 1 br apt w/private patio, green space, trees, busline or bike to campus or downtown. No noise, see to appreciate. Available. Cats allowed. 1825 NW 10th St. 352 284 3873 2-22-13-21-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

HOUSE FOR RENT 3242 NW 11th St. 2BR/1BA, W/D, Large separate garage & fenced backyard. Avail April 1st. \$775/mo, \$975 sec dep. Pets ok (w/ add'l fee). Call 352-371-3473. please leave message. 2-22-13-20-2

One block to UF! 2bed/2.5 bath townhouse. Washer/Dryer/DW/woodfloors, large kitchen, guaranteed parking included. Call Todd at 352-514-4915 www.forrentgainesville.com 3-12-13-20-2

House - First Month Rent Free!
Beautiful, newly renovated, 3BR/2BA, big rooms, 1.5 blocks from UF's Norman Hall, sublease for Fall 2013/Spring 2014, \$620 per bedroom (941)685-0336 2-12-13-5-2

LARGE 2BR/2BA HOUSE
w/ WD hook-up. Close to UF. 1103 NW 4th St. \$775/mo + \$300 sec. Pets ok. Call 352-332-8481 or 352-359-1644 3-12-13-20-2

● 1/1's w/ ROOM TO BREATHE. Clean & quiet near UF. Centrally located. Call 352-372-5400 for more info.
● 2/1 BIG FRONT YARD. \$40 moves you in. Available now. Call 352-275-4889 3-13-13-20-2

3BR/3BA newer house with Garage, fenced yard. Close to UF/Shands, shopping, bus route. Open floor plan/cathedral ceilings, W/D, lawn maintenance, pest control, quiet neighborhood. Avail April, \$1575/month. Contact 352-246-5958, tonycc@kinetixpt.com 2-28-13-15-2

3 Subleases

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

1 bedroom available in a furnished 3/3 at Cottage Grove \$615/month. Pet friendly, nice roommates, wifi, washer & dryer, big closet. email devinuf@gmail.com. 2-12-13-5-3

4 Roommates

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

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to
www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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 2-28-13-43-4

5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or **CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD THRU OUR ONLINE AT www.alligator.org.** or please call 373-Find (373-3463)

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

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
The Alligator Office
1105 W. University Ave.
M-F, 8am - 4pm
By E-mail: classifieds@alligator.org
By Fax: (352) 376-3015

By Mail:
Call 352-373-FIND for information.
Sorry, no cash by mail.
MasterCard, Visa or checks only.
By Phone: (352) 373-FIND
Payment by Visa or MasterCard ONLY.
M-F, 8am - 4pm

When Will Your Ad Run?
Ads placed by 4 pm will appear two publication days later. Ads may run for any length of time and be cancelled at any time. Sorry, but there can be no refunds or credits for cancelled ads.

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Cancellations: Call 373-FIND M-F, 8am - 4pm. **No refunds or credits can be given.**
Alligator errors: Check your ad the FIRST day it runs. Call 373-FIND with any corrections before noon. **THE ALLIGATOR IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRST DAY THE AD RUNS INCORRECTLY.** Corrected ads will be extended one day. No refunds or credits can be given after placing the ad. Corrections called in after the first day will not be further compensated.
Customer error or changes: Changes must be made BEFORE NOON for the next day's paper. There will be a \$2.00 charge for minor changes.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 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 |

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. • All employment opportunities advertised herein are subject to the laws which prohibit discrimination in employment (barring legal exceptions) because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, age, or any other covered status. • This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through the type of advertising that is known as "personal" or "connections" whether or not they actually appear under those classifications. We suggest that any reader who responds to that type of advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information. • Although this newspaper uses great care in accepting or rejecting advertising according to its suitability, we cannot verify that all advertising claims or offers are completely valid in every case and, therefore, cannot assume any responsibility for any injury or loss arising from offers and acceptance of offers of goods and/or services through any advertising contained herein.

6 Furnishings

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

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather.
Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$1800. Sacrifice \$700. Call 352-377-9846 4-24-72-6

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

6 Furnishings

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-24-72-6

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

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

10 For Sale

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

GOATS FOR SALE

Charlie - 352-514-9858 4-24-72-10

Guitars and Musical Instruments
New, Used and Factory Refurbished
Check Us Out Before You Buy!!
Leonardo's Music, Micanopy, FL
352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com
4-24-13-72-10

BOOKS: Clumsy Hearts, a slightly misguided
romance, will elevate author Hysteria Molt to the ranks of Keats, Hemingway, and Poe. They will not appreciate the company. Available via Amazon.com. 2-22-13-10-10

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

Alligator Classifieds is the way to get your 2 wheels on the road. Show off your bikes, scooters, and repair services. Call 373-FIND to get your classified in.

★★★★ MOTORCYCLE TIRE SALE ★★★★★
SPORT, STREET, CRUISER, OFF-ROAD.
OVER 400 TIRES IN STOCK.
MENTION THIS AD FOR \$10.00 OFF.
RPM MOTORCYCLES 352-377-697 4-24-72-11



4-24-13-72-11

★★★★NEW SCOOTERS 4 LESS★★★★
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
118 NW 14th Ave, Ste D, 336-1271
Vespa, Genuine, GMV, & More! NS4L.com
facebook.com/newscooters4less
4-24-13-72-11

★★SCOOTER REPAIR★★
New Scooters 4 Less has LOW repair rates!
Will repair any make/model. Close to UF!
Pick-ups avail. Cheap oil changes!! 336-1271
4-24-13-72-11

★★★Road Rat Motors★★★
Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads! New scooters starting at \$899. 1yr Parts AND labor warranties included. 376-6275 RoadRatMotors.com 4-24-13-72-11

Road Rat Motors offers FREE pickup service for any paid scooter repair. Daily pickups. LOWEST labor rate, quickest turnaround in Gville! Will repair ANY brand scooter. Free estimates. 376-6275. RoadRatMotors.com 4-24-13-72-11

★★SCOOTER RENTALS★★
Rent for a day, week, month or semester.
Now renting Buddy scooters too! 352-336-1271
www.gainesvillescooterrentals.com
4-24-13-72-11

Campus Scooters Mobile Sales and Scooter Service. We offer free estimates on all repairs and we come to you. We also have new scooters starting at \$799.00 Call us today at 352-263-0425 4-24-72-11

SWAMP CYCLES ● Closest to campus. MMI Certified Mechanics for Motorcycles and experienced scooter mechanics. Lowest prices. Friendly service. 633 NW 13th Street, 373-8823, www.swampcycles.com 4-24-58-11

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

New 2009 UM 250 motorcycle, never ridden or filled. 80 mpg. Hurry only 2 left. \$2999. 2006 Vulcan vn750. Only 12,218 miles. \$3999. Call Steve 352-328-7236 or David 352-414-6337 2-22-13-10-11

12 Autos

Unload your lot. Sell your cars through Alligator Advertising for cheap. 373-FIND or place your ad online at www.alligator.org/classifieds

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade
Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars
3432 N Main St. www.carrsmith.com
CARRSMITH AUTO SALES 373-1150
4-24-72-12

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to **www.alligator.org/classifieds**
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

●●● We Buy Junk Cars ●●●
●Trucks, Vans - Titled only●
Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3191
4-24-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN!
NO CREDIT CHECK!!!!
VEHICLES \$1000 AND UP!
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

BRING YOUR W2 AND DRIVE TODAY!!!!
NO MONEY DOWN!!!!
VEHICLES \$1000 & UP!!
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

94 Ford Explorer \$1000
94 Mazda Protege \$1500
96 Cadillac Deville \$1500
98 Cadillac Catera \$1999
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

95 Honda Civic \$3999
96 Honda Accord \$3999
00 Hyundai Elantra \$4999
95 Lexus GS300 \$4999
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

03 Chevy Impala \$5999
99 Honda Accord \$4999
04 Saturn Ion \$6999
02 Buick Lesabre \$6999
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES
NO CREDIT CHECKS!!!
CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS!
30 DAY WARRANTY!!!
352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

BRING YOUR W2 AND DRIVE TODAY!!!!
NO MONEY DOWN!!!!
WILL FINANCE ANYONE!!
352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

04 Nissan Sentra \$6999
02 Toyota Corolla \$6999
06 Mits Galant \$7999
04 Toyota Corolla \$8999
352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

04 Volvo S40 \$8999
04 Ford F150 \$8999
03 Nissan Frontier \$9999
06 Chevy Silverado \$9999
352-375-9090 4-24-54-12

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP
NO TITLE NEEDED. Call Brandy 352-771-6191
4-24-13-72-12

13 Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings or investing money.

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings ★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009.
4-24-72-13

UF GRAD PAYS MORE
for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090
4-24-72-13

The American Cancer Society
Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
to transport cancer patients to treatment.
Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
Please call
352-240-5062 if interested.



St. Francis House is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in downtown Gainesville, and we are looking for help from volunteers like you.
St. Francis House depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to help feed the homeless and the hungry.
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Brevall at (352) 378-9079 or sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcoxmail.com
To make a donation by mail, please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
I AM BLIND & WOULD LIKE HELP WITH:
●Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace.
●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948
2-28-13-72-13

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP
NO TITLE NEEDED CALL 352-771-6191
4-24-13-72-13

14 Help Wanted

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Just go to **www.alligator.org/classifieds**
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Employment agency listings
- 5 Fried Cajun veggie
- 9 WWII conference site
- 14 Billion extension
- 15 Steady guy
- 16 He hunted with a club in the "Odyssey"
- 17 Club used as a weapon, say
- 20 Nonagenarian actress White
- 21 Yeats or Keats
- 22 Color, as Easter eggs
- 23 Summer quencher
- 24 Dorm VIPs
- 27 Where Lux. is
- 29 Kid-friendly comfort food
- 36 Soothing additive
- 38 River through Sudan
- 39 Country rocker Steve
- 40 Sable maker, briefly
- 41 Turn ___ ear
- 43 Pub projectile
- 44 Former Portuguese territory in China
- 46 Prefix with -pus
- 47 Abales
- 48 Tests during which checking notes is allowed
- 51 Gymnast's goal
- 52 Deli bread
- 53 Art on skin, slangily
- 56 Draw upon
- 59 Not as much
- 62 Call-roping gear
- 64 Candid sort
- 68 Street toughs
- 69 Diamond Head's island
- 70 Aromatic drinks
- 71 Go on liptoe
- 72 Small songbird
- 73 Wine area near Turin

DOWN

- 1 "Star Wars" gangster
- 2 No longer squeaky
- 3 Xbox battle game
- 4 Told to go
- 5 Asian tie
- 6 Barbie's guy
- 7 Grating voice
- 8 One might get stuck in a jam
- 9 Video-sharing website
- 10 Radius's limb
- 11 Committed perjury
- 12 Randal who played Felix Unger
- 13 Chip in a chip
- 18 Supermodel Banks
- 19 Marsh stalk
- 25 Tolstoy's Karenina
- 26 Snowmobile brand
- 28 ___ and weep!"; poker winner's cry
- 30 Take back
- 31 Smart guy?
- 32 More like Felix Unger
- 33 African countries on the Mediterranean, e.g.
- 34 Mediation agcy.
- 35 Congeals
- 36 Target practice supply
- 37 "... one giant for mankind"
- 42 Cunning
- 45 Washington Monument, for one
- 49 Universal blood type, for short
- 50 Related to flying
- 54 Had lunch in
- 55 Foot bones
- 56 Letter carrier's org.
- 57 Leave speechless
- 58 Marine eagle
- 60 Vegas event
- 61 Kindergartner's reward
- 63 Tiny bit
- 65 Wanted-poster letters
- 66 Sailor's pronoun
- 67 Attila, notably

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | O | F | F | G | A | P | S | W | A | N | E | S |
| E | R | O | O | O | W | E | N | A | L | A | M | O |
| L | I | A | R | F | A | L | A | R | I | P | U | P |
| H | O | M | E | M | O | R | T | G | A | G | E | |
| I | N | S | T | O | R | E | T | A | N | N | E | D |
| | | A | M | I | S | E | E | M | A | E | R | |
| M | I | G | S | T | E | L | L | M | E | M | O | R |
| A | M | A | T | I | O | I | L | S | E | M | I | S |
| C | O | M | E | M | O | N | D | A | Y | T | I | E |
| Y | U | M | M | U | S | E | S | H | E | | | |
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| G | O | T | T | I | N | E | A | P | A | R | C | S |
| E | X | A | L | T | D | A | R | E | I | S | E | |
| M | O | S | E | Y | S | L | E | D | | D | E | E |

By Melanie Miller
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Florida hoping to halt recent skid against Kentucky

LONDON WATNICK
Alligator Writer

Since becoming Kentucky's coach in 2009, John Calipari has dominated Florida.

Calipari owns a 7-1 record against Florida coach Billy Donovan. The Gators went 0-3 against the Wildcats last season as UK cruised to win a nation title.

"That's really embarrassing to lose to a team three times in one year," junior point guard Scottie Wilbekin said. "It's always going to be in the back of our minds ... but it's a new year, and we've got things that we're focused on this year. That's to win [a Southeastern Conference] championship. In order to do that, we've got to beat them."

I think we have to have a level of intelligence, and I think driving in there and trying to shoot over top of [Noel] is probably not a wise choice. But I still think we are a team that needs to attack."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

When No. 7 Florida (19-3, 9-1 SEC) hosts No. 25 Kentucky (17-6, 8-2 SEC) at 7 p.m. in O'Connell Center, the Gators will face a Wildcats squad with new faces. Seven members of Calipari's championship team bolted to the NBA or graduated.

"Their team is different from a year ago," Donovan said. "We're not preparing for Anthony Davis or (Michael) Kidd-Gilchrist or (Doron) Lamb or (Marquis) Teague. We're preparing for Nerlens Noel and (Kyle) Wiltjer and (Alex) Poythress, some very gifted, talented guys who have their own identity and play their own way."

Kentucky began the season on a sour note, losing three of its first seven contests while Florida started 7-0. But UK has won five straight games and is sitting only one game behind UF in the conference standings.

Noel is the NCAA's leading shot-blocker with 4.5 per game. As an enforcer in the paint, the 6-foot-10 Noel averages a near

double-double in points (10.6) and rebounds (9.6). The freshman center is not a proficient scorer like Davis, the consensus National Player of the Year in 2012, but defends with similar

intensity.

"I think he is just as good as Anthony Davis as a shot

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 14



Alligator File Photo / David Carr

UK coach John Calipari reacts to a call during Florida's 74-59 loss to Kentucky on March 4, 2012 in the O'Connell Center. Calipari is 7-1 against the Gators since he began his tenure with the Wildcats in 2009.

Freshman achieving consistency in frontcourt

PHILLIP HEILMAN
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida's coaching staff urged Christin Mercer to not become complacent following her best performance of the season against Alabama.

Logging 23 minutes during UF's 87-54 victory on Feb. 3, the 6-foot freshman finished with 18 points on 9-of-12 shooting and pulled down 11 rebounds. Both were career-high numbers.

Mercer did not disappoint in her encore.

In Florida's 65-57 victory against Auburn — the Gators' first win on the road against the Tigers since Feb. 29,

2004 — Mercer scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds. More importantly, she helped provide a spark for Florida's stagnant first-half offense that scored just two points in the first 8:56 of the game.

UF Women's Basketball

"You see a kid that is showing the potential that is there that we have all been harping on and really getting on her about the whole season," assistant coach David Lowery said. "Just being able to be consistent, I think that has been the most important thing that I've noticed from her."

SEE MERCER, PAGE 14

WOMEN'S GOLF

UF in second after first round

RJ SCHAFFER
Alligator Writer

Camilla Hedberg and the fifth-ranked Florida women's golf team are in second place after Round 1 of the Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge in Palos Verdes, Calif.

After the first round of the tournament no team has shot below par, with the lowest being UCLA, which leads after shooting 4 over par (288) in the first round. Florida is currently tied for second with Duke at 6 over par (290).

The Gators are looking to capture their fourth victory of the season and sixth consecutive individual title.

UF is facing stiff competition in the Grumman Challenge against some of the best teams in the nation, according to the rankings from Golfweek.com.

The challenge includes multiple teams in the top 10 such as No. 1 Washington, No. 3 USC, No. 4 Duke, and No. 7 Arizona.

"It'll be another outstanding field for

us and a good chance for us to see some of the west coast teams and play on their home turf," coach Emily Bastel said in a release. "I think the win at the Florida Challenge got everyone excited to go tee it up again."

UF hopes to continue its success after coming off of a win in the Florida Challenge. Mia Piccio, the No. 3 starter for the Grumman Challenge, is coming off an individual win at the Lady Bulldog Individual Championship.

Isabelle Lendl, the only player besides Hedberg to start in all six tournaments this season, felt prepared for the course.

"I know we're expecting fast greens," Lendl said.

"The greens are always fast. There's usually some good rough there. The course is always in great shape; it's very hilly so I've been practicing a lot of high

SEE WOMEN'S GOLF, PAGE 14



Hedberg



Freshman Kelsey Stewart's performance at the Kajikawa Classic earned her SEC Player of the Week honors. See story, page 15.

Quotable

"They're shooting them, whether you guard them or not. If they're going, you tap 'em on the butt and say, 'Next game.'"

John Calipari, Kentucky coach
on Florida's three-point shooting

Lacrosse goalie earns award

Gators goalkeeper Mikey Meagher was named the WomensLax.com Player of the Week after recording nine saves in UF's 5-3 win against UNC on Saturday.

GYMNASTICS

Senior gymnast enjoying successful final season as Gator

CHUCK KINGSBURY

Alligator Writer

Ashanee Dickerson is rewriting Florida's record books.

Her name appeared among Gator greats 25 times coming into this season.

She has not slowed since arriving to Gainesville, and she has not stalled in her quest for a national championship.

"She just keeps getting better," coach Rhonda Faehn said.

"And I love that she's taking ownership of her senior year in a way that she is going to make sure that she leaves nothing on the table."

By the end of the regular season, there may be nothing

left for Dickerson to take.

Since her freshman year, Dickerson has competed in all-around 37 times in 42 events and has earned 16 career victories — good enough for a tie for fifth in program history.



Dickerson

As a junior, she became the only Gator in the program's 32-year history to score a 9.95 or above in each event.

She has neared perfection three times, and on Friday, Dickerson became the eighth Gator to post a 9.975 on floor.

"Her floor routine, that was really the best," Faehn said.

"I still get chills thinking about it ... the best [routine] I've seen her do."

Dickerson has increased inspiration this season.

The arrival of freshman Bridget Sloan has only benefited Dickerson during the Jacksonville native's final campaign as a Gator.

"I just need [Bridget] Sloan," Dickerson said. "I need Bridget Sloan with me in the corner. She pumps me up every time."

The emotion Sloan gets out of Dickerson is rare. Faehn joked that the only two words she heard from Dickerson as an underclassmen were, "Yes, m'am."

But Dickerson's level-headed attitude keeps her grounded. Faehn appreciates what she has in the record breaking senior.

"I still, every day, sit back and shake my head," Faehn said.

"Ashanee is the ultimate athlete that we would want in collegiate gymnastics."



Kristi Camara / Alligator

Kenny Boynton (1) attempts a shot during Florida's 83-58 win against Mississippi State on Saturday.

UF's big men face tall task in UK

HOOPS, from page 13

blocker," Donovan said. "I don't think there is any question about that. He has unbelievable length, has unbelievable timing. ... He can alter shots from a lot of different directions and areas on the floor. I think we have to have a level of intelligence, and I think driving in there and trying to shoot over top of him is probably not a wise choice. But I still think we are a team that needs to attack."

Kentucky's big men will test the rebounding and defense of Florida's frontcourt, which is already thin with junior forward Will Yeguete out for 4-6 weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

The Wildcats bring big men in Wiltjer and 7-foot center Willie Cauley-Stein off the bench. The pair average a combined 19.4 points and 10.1 rebounds per contest.

The 6-foot-7 Poythress could provide a matchup problem for guards Mike Rosario and Michael Frazier II if he shifts to small forward.

"Across the front line, they've got a lot of different line-ups they can play," Donovan said. "Our hand is what it is, in terms of our frontcourt."

Wildcats guards Archie Goodwin and Ryan Harrow tend to take quick shots in the half court but thrive in transition after forcing turnovers. Most of UK's offense comes off ball screens and one-on-one penetration.

"They're a good driving team," senior guard Kenny Boynton said. "All of those guys, they get to the hole well. ... We just have to stay in front of the ball."

Florida is 6 over par

WOMEN'S GOLF, from page 13

shots to greens, bump and runs, undulating putts and chip shots from the rough all you can do is play your best golf."

Hedberg and Piccio are leading Florida after both posted an identical first round of 71 for even par.

For Hedberg, a victory in the Grumman Challenge would be her fourth of the season and her second consecutive in the spring.

Piccio is looking to continue her successful senior season after winning the aforementioned Bulldog Invitational and finishing tied for eighth at the Florida Challenge.

The three other Gator starters in the Grumman are junior transfer Elcin Ulu, Lendl and sophomore Anna Young. Lendl and Young tied for 19th after shooting a 3 over par 74.

Ulu shot a team worst 79 (+8) to tie for 60th. Ulu has played sporadically this season and is continuing to slip since shooting a 69 in her first round of the spring at the Florida Challenge.

The Gators are in prime position for another victory after the unexpected results of some of their competition.

The top-ranked Huskies are currently tied for 13th, 19 strokes behind Florida.

There are two more rounds left in the Grumman Challenge. The championship round is on Wednesday.

Mercer helping shift defenders away from George

MERCER, from page 13

Mercer was again efficient offensively against the Tigers, making 6 of 9 attempts from the floor in 23 minutes.

She also recorded one steal in the game.

The improved play has given her a renewed sense of confidence in her own abilities as well.

"Having career highs and going back and having another high game and almost getting a double-double — I missed it by one rebound — it builds your confidence," Mercer said.

"Just going out there and playing like you know what you can do."

Mercer struggled during Florida's five-game losing streak in January. She shot just 36.7 percent from the floor during the stretch and often appeared out of sync on both ends of the floor.

Her nadir came against Ole Miss on Jan. 24, the third game in UF's skid.

Mercer logged just 8 minutes of action in the contest and finished with 0-of-3

shooting in an 88-81 overtime loss in the O'Connell Center.

However, coach Amanda Butler began to see a change in Mercer shortly afterward.

"That's what we need right now and is a big reason why, as of late, we are looking better and playing better. Teams can't double up on me because they have to worry about [Mercer]"

Jennifer George
UF forward

Butler praised her freshman for working harder in practice to prepare for Alabama and inserted her into the starting lineup for just the fourth time of the season against the Crimson Tide.

"(Mercer) has had some performances that made us confident about her being out there to set the tone," Butler said after beating Alabama.

As Mercer continues to fuel the Gators, she also augments the play of senior Jen-

nifer George.

George, who is often double-teamed by opponents, has found more space to work with the focus not fully on her in the frontcourt.

On Sunday, the pair combined for 23 points, and the Gators outscored the Tigers 30-18 in the paint.

"That's what we need right now and is a big reason why, as of late, we are looking better and playing better," George said. "Teams can't double up on me because they have to worry about her."

Florida's coaching staff hopes it has found a go-to duo that can be counted on down the stretch this season.

"That's one of the things that we have preached to Christin: 'If you can come in here and be effective and do some things, that is going to free up a whole lot of things for Jennifer and make you a really, really big part of our offense,'" Lowery said.

"I think she has really bought into that."

Contact Phillip Heilman at pheilman@alligator.org.



Ryan Jones / Alligator

Christin Mercer (25) drives the lane in UF's 87-54 win against Alabama on Feb. 3.

SOFTBALL

Freshmen key in Florida's undefeated start to season

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN
Alligator Writer

When Kelsey Stewart arrived at Florida, she was the No. 2 softball recruit in the country. But when she stepped into the batter's box for the first time on Friday afternoon, she was just another freshman trying to make a name for herself.

She succeeded.

In her first five games as a Gator, Stewart hit .556 on 10 hits in 18 at-bats. Of those 10 hits, two were doubles, one was a triple and two left the park.

Stewart ended the weekend with an on-base plus slugging percentage of 1.730.

And when the ball stayed in the yard, Stewart made the most of her time on base. She stole five bases and scored 10 runs.

The Southeastern Conference recognized Stewart's efforts, naming the freshman SEC Player of the Week.

"I've never had so much fun playing softball," she said.

Stewart was one of six freshmen who took the field for the Gators at the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., this weekend.

Most of those six were major contributors to No. 14 Florida's (5-0) dominant victories at the

Classic.

Outfielder Kirsti Merritt followed Stewart in the order and made some noise with her own bat.

Merritt had five hits and drew three walks for an on-base percentage of .526. She drove in six runs during the weekend, including four on a grand slam against Creighton (2-3) on Friday.

Merritt's bases-loaded homer helped the Gators run-rule the Bluejays.

"One of the things that stood out to me is just the leadership that Kirsti Merritt showed in the outfield," coach Tim Walton said.

First baseman Taylor Schwarz didn't rack up as many hits as Stewart and Merritt, but when she did connect with the ball, she made the opposition pay.

Schwarz's only two hits were home runs.

The first homer came in the fourth inning against No. 3 California (2-2) with Florida down 3-2. Schwarz's two-run bomb gave the Gators a lead they did not relinquish.

The second came against No. 13 Arizona (3-2) on Sunday. With Florida up 8-3, Schwarz started a six-run inning with a solo home run.

Senior Ensley Gammel fol-

lowed Schwarz with a home run of her own, and the Gators went on to win 14-3.

Florida freshmen accounted for five of the Gators' eight home runs, 11 of their 18 extra-base hits

and 18 of their 26 RBIs.

"I don't know if that's going to continue," Walton said.

"But ... I think the competitiveness at the plate was really

good.

"If you compete like we did and swing at quality pitches, foul off some tough pitches, I think we're going to be in position to hit home runs."



Alligator File Photo / David Carr

Coach Tim Walton signals to a base runner during Florida's 3-1 victory against Auburn on April 14, 2012 at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. Walton got key production from UF's freshmen at the Kajikawa Classic.

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THE RALLY

Which player does Florida need to step up most in 2013?

Josh: The Gators lost the vast majority of their power to graduation and the draft. They don't need to completely replace Mike Zunino, Preston Tucker and Nolan Fontana, but someone still has to step up and pick up some of the slack. That is why the most important player on the Florida baseball roster this season is sophomore catcher Taylor Gushue. The lineup won't be as power-reliant. Instead, UF will increase its focus on small ball. Still, the Gators will rely on Gushue's raw power to give them some semblance of balance in a lineup that lacks home-run ability at several positions. Even though he hit just .206 as a freshman, Gushue showed his potential as a middle-of-the-order force in flashes early last year.

Adam: Every team needs an ace. Series are won on Friday nights. With the power players at the plate gone from a year ago, pitching becomes more important for Florida. Kevin O'Sullivan had a three-run home run in his back pocket when things went awry last season. Say hello to stolen bases and bunts this season for the Gators' bats. Junior Jonathon Crawford takes over as the Friday night starter. If he can't last deep into games, relievers get used up for the weekend. With a team built on defense and pitching, Florida needs Crawford to set the tone for the weekend. For the pitcher who doesn't say much, Crawford will let his mid-90s fastball, plus-slider and improved changeup do the talking. And Florida will be much better off with that no matter how many RBIs Gushue gets.

Josh: Without a doubt, pitching is important. But pitchers need run support. You don't need to belt 75 dingers like UF did last year to be successful. Arizona only hit 23 home runs last year and still won the College World Series. And while pitching is more important when runs are at a premium, the Gators don't have depth in

the rotation beyond Karsten Whitson and Crawford to assume small ball will get it done. There are no established starters to take the Sunday and midweek jobs, and the Gators are likely going to have to put up runs in those games. Jonathon Crawford won't be on the field then, but Gushue will. He has the most raw power of anyone in the lineup, and the Gators will need him to be a 10-15 home run guy as they only return 14 of their home runs from last year's team.

Adam: Where have you been this fall and spring? The Gators are built on pitching and defense. Power won't be there for

Florida. O'Sullivan and the players said it themselves. And anything can happen in the College World Series. The Gators were the best team on paper and they exited quietly with two straight losses last season. Arizona pitching held opponents to less than two runs per game in

Omaha, which includes two wins against Florida State who finished tied for 13th in the nation in home runs. What happens to Florida when its starting pitcher can't go past the fifth inning? Inexperienced arms make up the bullpen. Steven Rodriguez isn't running through the outfield wall's door anytime soon. That means Crawford has to eat up innings if UF stands a chance

in a weekend series. Gushue can smack all the home runs he wants, but without a rested bullpen, the opposition will easily outdo the sophomore catcher come Saturday and Sunday when series are decided.

Josh: Like you did in our Rally last week, you are making my point for me again. I'm aware they are built on pitching and defense. But Gushue also factors into the defensive equation. Mike Zunino was strong behind the plate for three years at Florida. Last season, he ranked second in conference in throwing runners out. UF needs Gushue to be somewhat comparable to Zunino defensively. Offensively, the Gators can't expect him to be Zunino, but they need him to shoulder a large percentage of the offensive burden — even if that is smaller than it has been in years past. Even if Crawford and Whitson are studs, they will start less than half of the team's games, whereas Gushue is an everyday player. Florida will need offense more than anything on those occasions.

Adam: How am I making your point? The problem here is you have no point. You're saying Florida needs Gushue's offense to replace what it lost last year. This isn't the same UF offense! The Gators will not survive the Southeastern Conference without consistent starting pitching. Sure, teams win by scoring runs, but Crawford gives Florida an advantage every time out. Everything ties into how he pitches. If Crawford can't eat up innings on Friday night, it will mess everything up in a weekend series. And as you mentioned earlier, Gushue hit .206 last season. He had a tremendous year considering he skipped his high school senior season to play at UF, but like the rest of Florida's offense, there is still something to prove.

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Alligator File Photo / David Carr

Sophomore catcher Taylor Gushue bats during Florida's 7-3 victory against Cal State Fullerton on Feb. 17, 2012 at McKethan Stadium.

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