

Casey Prather scored 21 points in his return to Florida's lineup against Auburn on Saturday. Read the story on page 13.



CAMPUS

Marston study area renovations to begin in May

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer

bdupuy@alligator.org

Students aimlessly scanning Library West for a study spot may have a better option next school year: Marston Science Library will offer a renovated study space for more than 600 students.

UF President Bernie Machen recently approved plans for the \$5.7 million renovation project, which will turn the first floor of Marston into a study area for students.

The space will include about 25 study rooms, 70 additional computers and potentially a Starbucks.

Diane Bruxvoort, senior associate dean of UF libraries, said the university has only 3,400 study spaces available for the thousands of students who attend UF.

"People are sitting on the floor huddled in corners. We certainly expect that this space will be of great use."

Diane Bruxvoort

senior associate dean of UF libraries

"Library West is full much of the time," Bruxvoort said. "People are sitting on the floor huddled in corners. We certainly expect that this space will be of great use."

Students can expect renovations to begin in early May, but the space will still be open to students studying for finals.

"I don't think we will be at the point of disrupting finals," Bruxvoort said.

But the changes to Marston are still a concern to some students who regularly

SEE MARSTON, PAGE 4

UF Online kickstarts Canvas use

► CANVAS PROMOTES STUDENT-PROFESSOR COMMUNICATION.

JADE CASTRO

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF Online has opted to begin hosting several of its courses on Canvas, a new course management system, starting this semester.

The introduction of this new course website is part of a phased rollout to get all classes offered through UF Online hosted on a platform other than its counterpart, e-Learning, by Spring 2015.

"The reason why we are using Canvas this semester is that with the new UF Online, some of the things we needed to do were not available on (e-Learning)," said Tawnya Means, director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment at UF's Warrington College of Business Administration.

Means said UF Online is looking for

SEE CANVAS, PAGE 4



Cassidy Whitson / Alligator

Gators Helping Gators

University Police officers prepare to remove an alligator from Lake Alice on Monday. The gator had a hook stuck in its mouth.

Wendy's to return to Reitz Union food court, replace Burger King

► WENDY'S LEFT THE REITZ FOUR YEARS AGO.

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer

bdupuy@alligator.org

This Fall, students will be trading in their Burger King shakes for Frosties as Wendy's returns to the Reitz Union.

Jill Rodriguez, marketing program manager for Gator Dining Services, wrote in an email Wendy's will soon be back.

"We had the opportunity to bring back a very popular dining option to UF's campus," she said. "We are very excited to

welcome back Wendy's."

Current Burger King employees will continue working with Gator Dining after the change.

Due to declining sales, Cheeburger Cheeburger Express replaced the Wendy's in the Reitz Union in 2009. Burger King opened in 2011.

Kyle Kennedy, a 19-year-old UF industrial and systems engineering junior, said he frequents Wendy's off campus, and he is looking forward to having a Wendy's on campus.

"Wendy's has a few more options," he said.

Wendy's was named after the daughter of Wendy's founder Dave Thomas. His daughter, Melinda "Wendy" Morse, is a

"We had the opportunity to bring back a very popular dining option to UF's campus."

Jill Rodriguez

marketing program manager for Gator Dining

UF alumna.

Mackenzie Hagen, a 20-year-old UF food and resource economics junior, has never gone to the Reitz Union Burger King. Hagen said she would rather go to Wendy's than Burger King because of Wendy's healthier food choices.

"Wendy's just advertises that they are healthier for you, and I agree," she said.

Today



FORECAST	2	CROSSWORD	11
OPINIONS	6	SPORTS	13
CLASSIFIEDS	10		

New 911 app launches for UF's campus

Users can chat with dispatchers if they can't talk, pg 5.

UF ranks No. 21 on website's list of sugar baby schools

About 300 Gators use the site, pg 8.



SwampCon brings fans from across US to celebrate books, shows and games

It was the convention's third year, pg 3.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Nourish International

Learn about getting involved on campus and how you can get involved in Uganda today at 6:15 p.m. in Little Hall, Room 127. This is your opportunity to make a difference to end extreme poverty.

Generation Sketch Comedy auditions

Come out to Gannett Auditorium in Weimer Hall at 7 p.m. to audition for Generation Sketch Comedy's 18th live sketch comedy show. No experience is necessary, and anyone can audition. Generation is Gainesville's longest-running sketch comedy troupe. If you're interested in learning how to write sketch comedy and perform in a live sketch comedy show, then Generation is a great organization for you.

Krav Maga: self defense

Get ready for another semester of the best workout you can get. Krav Maga is a method of self defense developed by the Israeli Defense Forces. It will be held from 6:55 to 8 p.m. Come learn techniques with our Israel Fellow who used to serve as a combat fitness and Krav Maga instructor in the IDF. For more information, contact Matti at matti@ufhillel.org.

Robot lab recruitment meeting

Join us for an information session Thursday at 7:20 p.m. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering B, Room 211 about UF's Machine Intelligence Laboratory robot projects, including submarine and boat projects SubjuGator and PropaGator. Both are previous world champions. We will discuss the results of last year's competitions and explore the current problems we are interested in solving this year. We will also discuss our CongreGators swarm project, which involves copters and dune buggies. See tinyurl.com/UF-MIL-s14 for a flyer about the meeting and mil.ufl.edu for more information about our projects.

FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
RAIN 70/31	SUNNY 52/29	PARTLY CLOUDY 61/35	PARTLY CLOUDY 53/27	SUNNY 61/42

HSF's scholarship presentation and activities

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar Chapter invites you to its first meeting of the semester. Members will present on various available scholarships and give an overview of the exciting plans that are in store for the Spring semester. Enjoy free pizza and beverages Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in McCarty B, Room G108.

Cinema Verde seeks eco-fair vendors

Cinema Verde's fifth annual Environmental Film and Arts Festival is seeking vendors for its eco-fair, which will be held on Feb. 15. The festival features more than 30 films on topics including food, water, waste, energy, animals, sustainable life, business and government. Vendor applications and information are available online or via email at penny@cinemaverde.org.

Fourth Annual Run for Your Heart 5K

On Feb. 2, the Academy of Student Pharmacists' Operation Heart is hosting a 5K to encourage cardiovascular fitness in the community as part of American Heart Awareness Month. The run starts at 8 a.m. at Westside Park, 1001 NW 34th St. Registration is \$15 before the race or \$20 the morning of the event. All proceeds go toward the American Pharmacists Association student organization's efforts to provide blood pressure and cholesterol screenings to the Gainesville community. For more registration information, go to the event's Facebook page or email ASPOperationHeart@gmail.com.

Yulee Railroad Days vendor applications open

Entertainers and vendors of handmade arts and crafts: Welcome to the annual Yulee Railroad Days, which will be held March 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information about applying to the festival, visit sites.google.com/site/archerhistoricalsociety/home. The event is sponsored by Archer Historical Society Inc.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to kgriffis@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 and keep them 150 words or fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

Have an event planned? Add it to the Alligator's online calendar:

alligator.org/calendar



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SwampCon brings fans from across US

► IT WAS FREE.

CHRISTINE PRESTON

Alligator Contributing Writer

Zombies, wookies and superheroes convened this weekend to celebrate the third annual SwampCon.

Saturday and Sunday, people of all ages and fandoms gathered

at the Reitz Union to celebrate their favorite books, TV shows, games and characters.

Attendees could participate in panel discussions, play games, join tournaments, watch performances or participate in other activities like scavenger hunts.

Vic Meredith, a moderator for several panels at SwampCon, said she thinks the UF conven-

tion combines several aspects of many other popular conventions.

"There's a nice mix of anime, sci-fi, gaming and panels here that you usually don't see in most other conventions," Meredith said.

Amber Hollingsworth, a panelist at SwampCon, said this is her 10th year attending con-

ventions. She said she appreciates that UF has something most venues don't: on-site refreshments.

"It's nice that they have food and drinks readily available," she said. "Other places, all you have is that \$7 pretzel."

She said that another positive aspect to UF's convention was the broad range of topics and activities available to participants.

Lawrence Chan, a 20-year-old UF journalism junior and the main event coordinator for SwampCon, said turnout improves each year as the event grows.

However, because most conventions are expensive, Chan credited some of SwampCon's popularity to the free admission.

Most of this year's attendees were from Florida, but some came from as far as California, he said.

"You see all these people talking, chatting," said Chan. "They're all happy about being here, seeing different things, going to different conventions."

Chan has been to several conventions, but this was his first time organizing one.

He compared the passion that these people have for their hobbies to the passion of fans cheering for their team at a football game.

"Ultimately, we are providing a medium for people to follow their dreams, follow their interests," said Chan.

Visit alligator.org for a video of the event.



Emily Cochran / Alligator

Merlin, played by 21-year-old UF anthropology senior Ashley Egelie, joins the Doctor and his companion, Clara (not pictured), in the opening number of "Whosical the Musical."

RESEARCH

Professor develops wireless pet heart monitor

ARIANA FIGUEROA

Alligator Contributing Writer

A professor has configured a gadget to help recovering animals rest more soundly.

Jenshan Lin, a professor in UF's electrical and computer engineering department, recently finished creating a monitor that tracks the heart rate and respirations in animals without the need for physical contact.

After surgery, animals tend to bite and scratch wires attached to them, which can either unhook them from monitors or create false readings. The new wireless monitor avoids these problems.

The monitor is about half the size of a shoe box and can hang on the side of cages.

It uses radio waves to detect motions, removing the need for monitors to be hooked up to the animal. With a battery life of about seven hours, veterinary technicians don't

have to constantly check the animals' vitals, letting the animals heal in comfort.

Lin first began research and construction of the device about a decade ago.

The radio waves work like a Doppler radar and detect changes in the animal's heart rate. Lin said it's like a radar gun that law enforcement uses for monitoring the speed of cars.

The catch is, unlike speeding cars, recovering animals are sedentary.

"The trick is that even though the animal is not moving, the radar picks up a high-frequency movement," he said. "It's a very sensitive motion detector."

This is not a new idea, Lin said. As futuristic as it sounds, the idea for a wireless monitor first came out in the 1980s for search-and-rescue missions.

Another company is testing the monitor

for use on premature babies. When used on a simulated premature baby, the monitor was proven to be accurate in every reading. Tests are still being conducted at UF Health Shands Hospital, Lin said.

Within the next few months, Lin said, he hopes the device can be available for local animal hospitals. An app is in the works.

Laura Cohen, the owner of High Springs Animal Hospital — where the monitor identified a cat with heart problems during a test — said without the discomfort of being attached to wires, animals can recover in peace.

"It's more comfortable for them," Cohen said.

She said other veterinarians at the hospital responded favorably to using the device.

"It's a very positive force for the profession," Cohen said.

South Florida whales being monitored

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MYERS BEACH — Two pilot whales died and a third would be euthanized after roughly four dozen whales swam into shallow waters Monday off southwest Florida, wildlife officials said.

A handful of the whales were stranded near shore in Lee County, while more than a dozen others swam nearby, said Kim Amendola of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service.

An additional 12 whales were spotted farther offshore earlier in the morning.

Necropsies would be performed on the three beached whales, said NOAA regional stranding coordinator Blair Mase.

"They all look in really bad shape."

Blair Mase

NOAA regional stranding coordinator

The remaining whales were listless and emaciated, and many wouldn't react if a boat approached them, Mase said.

"They all look in really bad shape," she said. She expected that more whales could die by Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, roughly two dozen other pilot whales were being monitored off Collier County. Those whales were in the same pod that swam into shallow waters off Naples on Sunday, Amendola said.

A few temporarily beached themselves Sunday before swimming out with the tides.

They also seemed to be in poor shape.

"They're definitely out of their home range, and they look like they've been out of their home range for quite a while," Mase said.

Pilot whales typically swim in deeper waters farther offshore. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the whales to swim so close to land.

The pilot whale is a common species involved in mass strandings.

In early December, more than 50 pilot whales became stranded in Everglades National Park. Seven died and four were euthanized before the rest apparently swam back into deeper waters.

Man arrested for stealing condoms, lighters from Wal-Mart

► HE SAID HE SMOKED CRACK COCAINE EARLIER IN THE NIGHT.

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer

jlyons@alligator.org

Gainesville Police arrested a Fort White man early Saturday after officers said he injected himself with pain reliever then tried to steal items from a local Wal-Mart.

Officers arrested 40-year-old Tracy Kyle Davis on charges of petit theft, resisting recovery of property, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment, according to an arrest report.

At about 1 a.m., an employee of the Wal-Mart Supercenter at 5700 23rd St. noticed Davis stick cologne, a package of LifeStyles condoms, a flashlight and two packages of Bic lighters in the breast pocket of his jacket.

Despite having more than \$200 on him, Davis hid the items, worth about \$47. He bought only a stick of deodorant at checkout, according to the report. Two employees stopped Davis while he left the store and took him to the loss prevention office. One of the employees held Davis down to stop him from escaping until police arrived.

Officers found a needle and syringe inside of his jacket pocket as well as a container with two pills of the painkiller Dilaudid in his right

pants pocket and a crack pipe in his left pants pocket, according to the report.

During questioning, Davis said he smoked crack cocaine earlier in the night and injecting the Dilaudid with the syringe less than an hour before going to Wal-Mart. Davis said he does not have a prescription for the pain medication, according to the report.

Officers booked him into jail, where he remained as of press time in lieu of a \$25,000 bond.

CAMPUS

Student-produced label Swamp Records to host showcase

ALINA AVALOS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Swamp Records, the UF student-produced record label, will be hosting a showcase presented by Student Government Productions.

On Friday at 7:30 p.m., a variety of local bands and artists will gather at The JAM, 817 W. University Ave., to perform and network.

"The goal of this event is to cel-

brate the launch of Swamp Records this year and provide more information to the public about who we are and what we aim to do," wrote Rachel Ring, head director for Swamp Records, in an email.

Ring, a 21-year-old UF management senior, said Swamp Records hopes to promote and support local Gainesville talent and help take their careers to the next level.

Swamp Records is looking for

"Our bands cover a range of genres including: electronic, funk/soul, hip-hop and more."

Rachel Ring

head director for Swamp Records

bands with a strong following, stage presence and quality material, she said.

"Our bands cover a range of

genres including: electronic, funk/soul, hip-hop and more," she said.

However, Ring said no bands will be signed until Swamp Records secures the legal right to do so.

The event will feature two stages: one outdoors and one inside with bands performing all night.

One of the performances featured at the showcase will be Bells and Robes, a Gainesville-based two-person electronic band formed by

UF graduates.

Luke Sipka, co-producer for Bells and Robes, said he hopes to see the showcase foster a better relationship between UF and the music scene.

"I've read about so many cities where a venue forms, and a scene starts with locals that eventually have a huge impact," Sipka wrote in an email. "I feel like something along these lines is forming in Gainesville."



Matthew Martyr / Alligator

AMA

Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian speaks at UF on Friday about being an entrepreneur. Ohanian is on tour promoting his new book, "Without Their Permission."

Negotiations are underway to bring a Starbucks, too

MARSTON, from page 1

study at the library.

Clara Mabour, a 20-year-old UF biology sophomore, said she finds Marston to be a quieter study space than other libraries on campus. Mabour said she does not want Marston to become like Library West, where people often go to socialize instead of study.

"People who really want to study come here," she said. "Library West is more social — it's for group studying. It might be pretty good to have a Starbucks though."

Even though a Starbucks is already located nearby Marston in the Hub, negotiations are still being held to have Starbucks inside the library.

Once funding becomes accessible, Newell Hall will also be converted into a study space for students.

The planned renovations come after college campuses across the U.S. are moving library collections online to make room for bookless study spaces.

Marston currently houses thousands of government documents and scientific journals, which will all be placed into storage and will be available upon student request or via electronic access.

Back in 2009, study rooms were added to the second floor of Marston.

Rin Azrak, a 20-year-old UF biotechnology junior, said renovating Marston would be a nice change because Library West is often too crowded for her to study there.

"It will be more efficient for people to study in," she said. "Library West gets cramped. It's always first-come first-serve, unless you have a friend save a spot for you."

It has a chat section for students to ask and answer questions

CANVAS, from page 1

ways to engage students and produce better learning outcomes. Canvas offers interactive features, as well as different ways to communicate with professors and other students in the class.

"Because video is integrated into the entire course site, basi-

cally any time you want to interact with your instructor, you can do it by video, audio or text," Means said.

Canvas isn't restricted to students pursuing a degree through UF Online. Traditional students may have sections hosted on Canvas, too.

"I think it's easy to use, but it's pretty inconvenient having some classes on Canvas and some on e-Learning," said Virginia

Pedigo, a 20-year-old UF applied physiology and kinesiology sophomore, whose macroeconomics class uses Canvas.

Jose Muia, a 20-year-old UF finance sophomore, said he didn't hear about the switch until he returned from break.

"Two of my three courses are on Canvas," he said. "It's very similar to [e-Learning], very easy to use, and you can find coursework easily."

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New 911 app launches for UF campus

► USERS WHO DON'T WANT TO BE HEARD CAN "CHAT" WITH DISPATCH.

BRANDON KRUMINS

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF is the first university to implement TapShield, a new application aimed at keeping students safe.

The campus safety app is set to debut this week, and it includes features such as a real-time GPS locator and a customizable profile.

"The app will provide an extra layer of security for all the students," said Jessica Gates, a TapShield spokeswoman.

Gates collaborated with university officials to make the app, which will be free to students and faculty.

The app is set up through an incident response platform, which provides two-way communication between the user and University Police dispatch, Gates said.

She said whenever the app is launched, it automatically sends police the user's real-time GPS location along with his or her user profile information.

The app has a mode that allows users to chat electronically with the dispatcher for circumstances when the user does not want to be overheard talking to the police.

Student Body President Christina Bonarigo said the impact of the new safety app will be significant.

"It's going to provide an extra element of security to students," she said.

Maria Lyn Cauthorn, a 20-year-old UF industrial and systems engineering junior, said she sometimes feels unsafe while running alone on or near campus after dark, so she would like to download the new app.

"It's more convenient than calling 911 or going to one of the blue lights," she said.

Locals volunteer, serve in honor of MLK

JULIANNE HUHN

Alligator Contributing Writer

To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, about 350 volunteers grabbed rakes, blowers, gloves and brushes.

Students and residents arrived at the Reitz Union early Monday to participate in the annual UF Center for Leadership and Service's MLK Day of Service.

The event kicked off with breakfast in the Grand Ballroom, a visit from Alberta and performances from an African choir and the Gator Dazzlers.

Then, volunteers were divided into groups and sent to work at about 18 sites,

said Angela Garcia, an event coordinator. Some sites included Einstein Montessori School, Forage Farm and the Historic Haile Homestead at Kanapaha Plantation. The only on-campus locations were Wilmot Gardens and the UF Natural Area Teaching Laboratory.

The volunteers participated in activities such as landscaping, gardening and painting, Garcia said.

At the end of the event, the service groups held reflection sessions to let volunteers share what they learned.

"The group reflection at the end is important because hopefully (volunteers) will make the connection of why they are doing

that service and the 'Now what?'" Garcia said.

Dan Sibol, a 21-year-old AmeriCorps VISTA employee, said the pumped-up kick-off ceremony helped energize volunteers.

"We have a lot of people here to get everyone excited, even an African choir," he said. "We have kind of transformed it from just a 'Here's your site, see you later,' to more of a celebration. And I think this is what it is all about, celebrating service and getting everyone together."

Monday marked the seventh year of the UF Center for Leadership and Service's MLK Day of Service.



AP Photo

President Barack Obama and his youngest daughter, Sasha, make burritos Monday at DC Central Kitchen as part of a service project in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Washington.

STATE

Horses retire on North Florida farm

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALACHUA — Whenever a horse arrives at Mill Creek Farm in Florida, Peter and Mary Gregory make the aging animal a promise to last the rest of its days.

"We say you'll never be worked or ridden again," said Peter Gregory, director of the farm. "And you'll be here forever. And they are here forever because when they die here, they're buried here."

About 130 horses have this 265-acre farm in north-central Florida as their retirement home, doted on by now elderly caretakers. Nearly all of the horses have worked for years in law enforcement, military or other service jobs; a few have been seized by police.

Now, these horses graze in green pastures under moss-draped oaks. Their tranquil existence is only broken each day by Peter, 85, and his wife Mary, 81, riding out on golf carts from their home on the property. From field to field they go, feeding the horses hay, grain and carrot

treats.

"It's difficult to find any place that will take an older retired horse. We wanted Special to actually truly be retired," said Sgt. Chris Laster of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, who brought a 23-year-old horse to the farm for retirement in 2013. "Peter knows every horse's name there; he knows their stories."

Originally from England, the Gregorys spent years traveling the world when Peter was a hotel manager. In 1984, they bought the farm about 20 miles north of Gainesville and created a nonprofit organization called the Retirement Home for Horses. It's since drawn tourists, documentary filmmakers and other visitors curious about where veteran horses go.

Some of the horses are blind. Some are ill. And all would have ended up at an out-of-country slaughterhouse had the Gregorys not taken them in. The farm doesn't accept horses from private owners. There are other horse retirement farms in the U.S. — in Kentucky,

Tennessee and Connecticut — and there are only a few, much smaller farms for aging horses in Florida.

There's Special, a horse who worked for the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department for 17 years and whose last big event was the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa.

And there's Roman, a 13-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff's Office who helped search for little Caylee Anthony, who went missing in 2008 and later was found slain. When Roman arrived last summer, he sought out Dylan, another Orange County Sheriff's horse that had retired a few years before. The pair have stuck close to each other in one pasture ever since.

"Most horses, when they get old, if they do get old, then nobody wants them anymore," Gregory said.

There's a special patch of land where the horses are buried; a sign that says "Field of Dreams" stands in a clearing. A tree is planted for each horse buried in the field, marking the animals' final resting spots.

Woman shoots deputies, is then shot

► THEY WERE RESPONDING TO HER CALL, BUT SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE THEY WERE OFFICERS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERLACHEN, Fla. — A north Florida woman is hospitalized after being shot by sheriff's deputies responding to her calls about prowlers outside her home.

Putnam County Sheriff's Sgt. Hancel Woods said Diana Lucille Conner was shot after she came out of her house and fired a rifle.

Woods told the Florida Times-Union that Conner called the sheriff's office early Monday.

But she didn't believe the deputies who responded were law enforcement, even after they turned on their patrol cars' emergency lights.

Deputies left Conner's Interlachen home, then returned about two hours later when neighbors complained that Conner called them about a prowler.

Woods says deputies ordered Conner to drop her weapon, but she opened fire instead.

The deputies fired back. The sheriff's office said Conner was struck four times.

Editorial

Land of the free? Remembering MLK's death

The state of Florida granted UF students and staff a day off from work and classes to honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr., a pioneer of civil rights for black Americans. You already know this, of course. Every elementary-school curriculum includes the study of King and his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

However, we tend to look back upon King's legacy with a soft filter, remembering only King's beautiful speeches about brotherhood. Nearly half a century has passed since King's assassination. It's easy for white Americans to forget that King was a highly controversial figure, and his assassination in Memphis in 1968 was not a random incident. In 1999, according to *The New York Times*, a Memphis jury decided that a retired Memphis cafe owner was part of a conspiracy in King's murder after King's family brought forth a civil suit.

According to the *Times*, "After four weeks of testimony and one hour of deliberation, the jury in the wrongful-death case found that Loyd Jowers as well as 'others, including governmental agencies' had been part of a conspiracy."

King's killing was, as former U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson said, no act of "blind violence." Other agencies were complicit in the wrongful death of an outspoken activist who condemned not only the way black people were treated in America, but also the Vietnam War and the way poverty was handled in this country.

Dexter King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s youngest son, told *The New York Times* in 1999 that he hoped history books would be rewritten to reflect the newest — and most accurate — account of his father's assassination.

While it's important to remember the messages of nonviolence that King passed, it's also equally important to discuss the government's possible involvement in King's death and to remember that the U.S. — our "land of the free" — has committed some deeply disturbing acts over the course of its history and continues to do so. Drone strikes, anyone?

Our generation is one that trusts the government less than those before us. It makes sense, then, to open the floor to talk about institutional racism and its deadly effects on citizens — especially those who dare to be outspoken.

Although his most memorable words come from the "I Have a Dream" speech, we leave you with a part of his last speech delivered in Memphis the night before he was killed.

"I've seen the promised land," he said. "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Reader response

Today's question: Is having a Wendy's in the Reitz Union better than Burger King?

Friday's question: Do you think the Plaza of the Americas needs renovations?
45% YES
55% NO
95 TOTAL VOTES

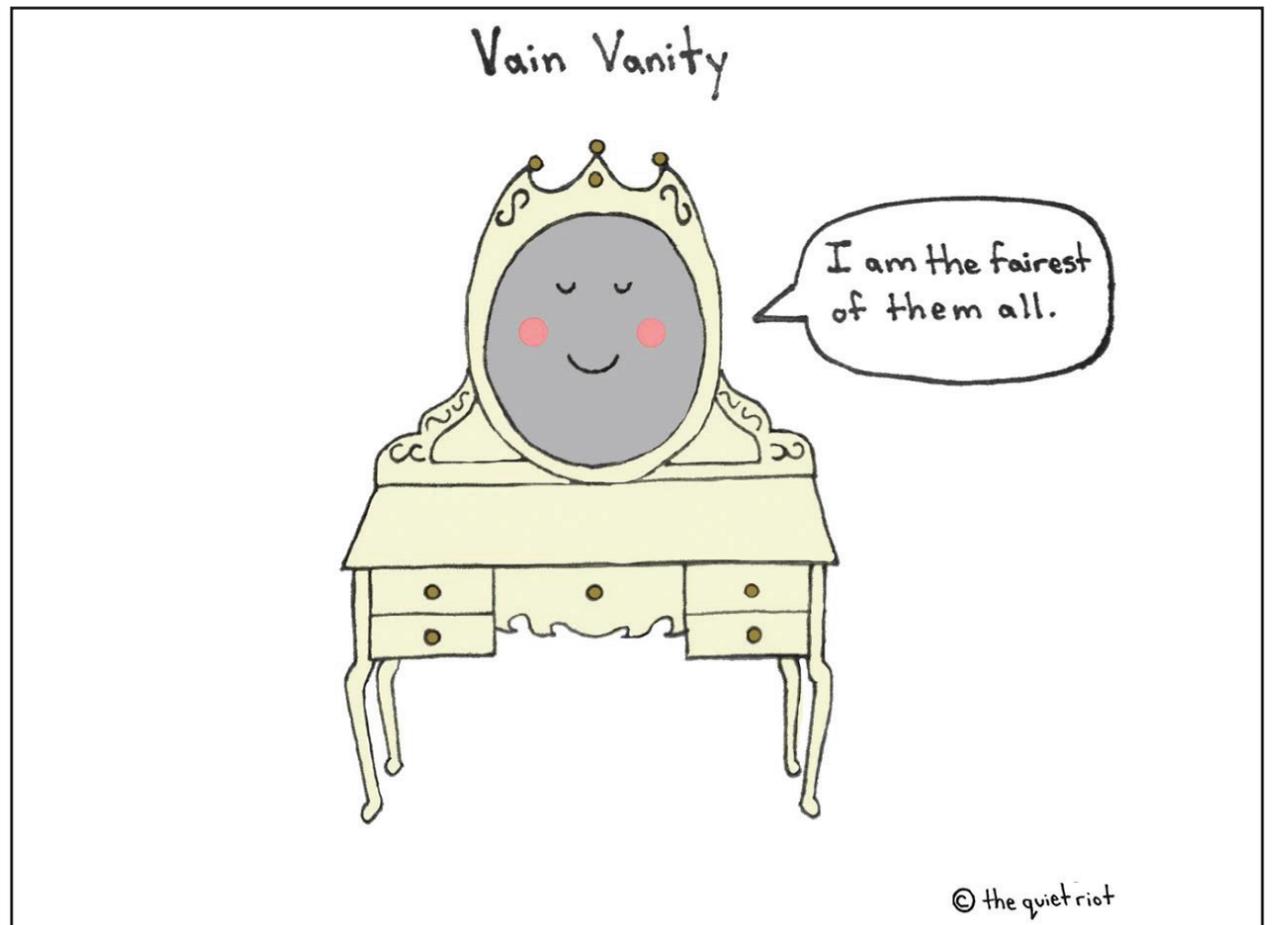
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Column

Celebrate life by not fearing death

Although Woody Allen's quip, "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying," is famous, the best line about death comes from British entertainer Bob Monkhouse: "I want to die like my father, peacefully in his sleep, not screaming and terrified, like his passengers."

Death can be a funny topic, but usually, it isn't. How come?

For starters, no one likes thinking about death. We love this whole "living" phase, and most people will try anything to stay alive. But why do people cling to life so tightly while no similar fetish for death can be found?

Relatively speaking, not too many humans have come into existence, yet we're among the lucky few. Each of us is a statistical anomaly — call it a miracle, if you want to get corny. Kurt Vonnegut, a lifelong atheist, said it best: "God said to some of the mud, 'Sit up!'... And I was some of the mud that got to sit up and look around. Lucky me, lucky mud."

But unlike the diversity of life, death is definitive. It is the grand finale for everyone — no matter how a person lives, death takes you to where you are, simply no more.

Despite the obviousness of death, few people take it seriously, and even fewer in our age group do. This is normal, considering that even soldiers facing death think, "It can't happen to me. I'm too clever/agile/well-trained/good-looking/beloved/tightly laced, etc."

As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "A man can attend but one funeral in the course of his life, can behold but one corpse." It's only when someone actually dies that he or she can finally wake from the slumber of life to the reality of death.

But a logical question arises: What's the point of life if we're all dead in a few years anyway?

Life's intrinsic value comes from knowing that death is around the corner. There is an invisible stopwatch some-



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where out there, counting down the seconds that each of us has remaining on this planet, and this is what makes life so precious.

One of the founders of the Streetlight program at UF Health Shands Hospital, Rebecca Brown, told me how, one frosty morn-

ing, while walking across her nature trail, she came across a shimmering spider web. In the middle of the web lay a dead spider, frozen from the cold.

Brown says about the dead spider, "Spinning a web is what she does ... she died in her web, and that is an honorable way to go."

Meeting death, while doing what you are meant to do, to borrow from Brown's eloquence, "means to die, living."

Leo Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" sheds some light on what we are "meant to do." The main character, Ivan, is petrified of parting with his comfortable life and begins to howl ceaselessly for three days and nights on his deathbed. He repeatedly refers to death as "it" — using the impersonal pronoun to convey how far-off the concept of death appears. At the same time, "it," in Russian, also means "she" — suggesting how intimate death actually is.

An hour before Ivan's death, he glances at his family and for just a moment, feels genuine sympathy for them. Suddenly, "instead of death there was light," writes Tolstoy.

In being genuine — not merely going with the tides of social norms — and compassionate, we transcend death. A 19th century poet, Thomas Campbell, confirms this: "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Zulkar Khan is a UF microbiology senior. His columns appear on Tuesdays.

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

Column

Selfies: It's OK to be vain

As with any new trend, the Internet has had strong opinions about the subject of selfies. Many people argue that they are conceited, the evidence of our self-centered generation. The word "selfies" even sounds like "selfish." But these judgments are practically archaic.



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and accept themselves.

A selfie may also mean that the subject may only like themselves in that photo, at that angle and in that particular outfit. Maybe by taking a picture they like of themselves, they are gaining some self-acceptance, and I fully support that. Some people even post selfies as motivators to get in shape.

I think the backlash against selfies can be summed up by the idiotic song by the idiotic One Direction that says, "You don't know you're beautiful, and that's what makes you beautiful." Selfies corrupt the mystique that people don't know they are beautiful because, by taking those photos, they are taking pride in their appearances. And for some reason, we like people to keep up this performance of trying to look good but acting like they don't realize it, which is absurd.

Some people criticize selfies because they believe the people taking them think they are the center of the universe. I argue that's like telling a child who hasn't finished his or her dinner that people are starving in Africa. It is unrealistic to compare one's personal situation to everything else that is going on in the world. If we were all constantly thinking about that, I don't how many of us would still get out of bed each morning, nonetheless laugh and take a selfie break.

To selfies, I say hold your head up high. Or, if you prefer, down at a 45-degree angle, and make whatever face you want at the camera. I'll like it.

Lauren Adamson is a UF journalism junior. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.

Essentially, everything we publish for people to see or read is a bit vain. We've judged an article or video worth sharing, and it is a representation of ourselves. Selfies are also representations of ourselves, but people seem to be against them because they are based on physical appearance. However, both are forms of seeking approval.

From an early age, we are taught to strive for beauty and success but to hide our efforts and play down our accomplishments. If you walk into a kindergarten class, the children show off their artwork, outfits or a new song they learned. But once those children grow up and go to high school, they've learned that it is socially unacceptable to let others know you believe in yourself. Go into a high-school classroom, and students may hesitantly raise hands, answer questions with a question or deflect compliments.

When I give a friend a compliment, I want him or her to believe it and say "thank you" with pride. There is nothing wrong with being a little vain, and often, we have to fight for whatever self-pride we have. So I am happy to like friends' selfies. They are showing they are strong enough to withstand the pressures of the media and society

Column

Science and religion can coexist

Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions, but not his or her own facts. Nearly 33 percent of the American population — and yes, we are talking 2014 here — does not believe in evolution.

Why is this so harmful, you may ask? Because although we still technically refer to evolution as a theory, it is the most scientifically accepted explanation for how life on Earth has operated for billions of years.

Evolution, by definition, is a process of slow change and development over time. Scientists will argue which definition is the most correct, but, for our intents and purposes, let's stick with this one. Generally, the principle of evolution holds that as time progresses, organisms will need to meet a certain standard of survival criteria, for example, accessibility of food or how vulnerable the organism is to predation.

Those individuals who cannot meet this standard will die off while the so-called victors will survive and procreate, perpetually donating their awesome DNA to the living gene pool. Over a long period of time, the physical and genealogical makeup is altered, showing us gradual differences in appearance.

Contrary to popular belief, we are not chimpanzees, but we share a common ancestor with them — along with 98.8 percent of our DNA. That 1.2 percent difference between us accounts for 35 million differences. The most apparent of these may include walking upright, larger brains and the ability to speak.

And although I wasn't there, there was not a moment at the beginning of time where modern humans were simply dropped onto



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this Earth alongside fruit-bearing trees and gliding gazelles already prepackaged and ready to go. Everything that exists today is a product of evolution. Humans, dinosaurs, mosquitoes and that coral you stand on when you go in the ocean, all evolved from single-celled organisms.

There's a part of me that wants to say everyone can believe whatever he or she wants to believe, but the truth of it is, the study of evolution spans religions, cultures and belief systems. Which leads me to my last argument.

The one-third of Americans who don't believe in evolution may feel this way because of their allegiance to God and intelligent design. There is a modern stigma that you either have to only believe in science or only believe in religion. This is not true.

Evolution should not be seen as a barrier to religious beliefs. Belief systems are not dichotomous, but rather spectrums. Science and religion can coexist. You can still believe in the Divine and also be a supporter of science. Nobody has the right to take your religion away from you. Just be sure you don't develop ignorance to the progressing world. And if you do not believe in a religion, then let those who do, be.

Whether you believe in God or the Flying Spaghetti Monster, my advice is to remain educated and to respect every individual's viewpoint.

I think it's far past the time that our viewpoints on this issue should have evolved. Wouldn't you agree?

Rachel Kalisher is a UF anthropology and classics junior. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.

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Issue Date	Sports Coverage
Monday 1/6	Bowl Recap
Friday 1/17	Swimming, Gymnastics
Friday 1/24	Link to Pink vs Auburn
Friday 1/31	Tennis, Swimming & Diving, Men's Basketball vs Texas A&M
Friday 2/7	Lacrosse, Men's Basketball vs Alabama
Friday 2/21	Swimming, Tennis, Men's Basketball vs Ole Miss
Friday 2/28	Swimming & Diving
Friday 3/14	Baseball Opener vs Arkansas
Monday 3/17	NCAA Basketball Tournament
Friday 3/28	Golf, Tennis, Swimming, Diving
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UF ranks No. 21 on list of fastest-growing sugar baby schools

Three Florida schools made top 20

ALYSSA AGUERO

Alligator Contributing Writer

With tuition on the rise, some UF students have opted for a nontraditional method of funding their academic costs.

UF was ranked No. 21 by SeekingArrangement.com on its list of the fastest-growing sugar baby schools in the United States.

SeekingArrangement.com calls itself the world's largest sugar daddy website, with college students making up the majority of its users.

The website invites "gentlemen" to date and financially sponsor "sugar babies," who are described as "attractive, intelligent, ambitious and goal-oriented" by the website.

Recent increases in tuition have led to students using sugar daddies to cover those costs, said Angela Bermudo, public relations manager at SeekingArrangement.com.

"Students need to find ways to pay for their tuition," Bermudo said. "It's a good career move while you're still in school."

In 2012, UF had 186 students using the service, she said.

That number rose by about 57 percent in 2013.

Currently 292 students at UF have sugar daddies paying for their school expenses.

Bermudo said that increased popularity is due to "word of mouth between students."

While the number of sugar babies is growing at UF and across the nation, not

all students see the benefits of getting a sugar daddy.

Alexa Tsongranis, a 20-year-old UF psychology and advertising sophomore, said she was surprised that her school ranked No. 21 on this list.

"My father would kill me first," said Tsongranis. "If I needed the money that bad, I would get a job."

Rachel Reardon, a 22-year-old UF multimedia journalism graduate student, said she thinks that a website like this is useful.

"I feel like a lot of people would say its sexist, but it's a woman exercising her own choice to take an option that is out there," Reardon said.

Reardon said people are using this website because college is very expensive.

"I'm incredibly broke, so that sounds good," Reardon said jokingly. "What's the name of the website again?"

Top 20 fastest growing sugar baby schools based on number of new sign-ups:

1. University of Central Florida - 474
2. Arizona State University - 409
3. New York University - 347
4. Georgia State University - 269
5. Temple University - 251
6. University of Colorado - 232
7. Kent State University - 219
8. University of Southern California - 211
9. University of California, Davis - 192
10. Texas State University - 189
11. University of Georgia - 185
12. Florida International University - 184
13. University of South Florida - 171
14. University of Arizona - 165
15. University of California, Berkeley - 153
16. University of New Mexico - 148
17. Tulane University - 137
18. Indiana University - 122
19. Michigan State University - 117
20. Louisiana State University - 113

Post-injury Derek Jeter works out on-field in Tampa

► YANKEES WORKOUTS START IN FEBRUARY.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA — New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter has resumed on-field work for the first time since his 2013 season was cut short.

The Yankees captain hit off a tee in a batting cage and fielded 108 grounders on the grass in front of the infield dirt Monday at the Yankees minor league complex.

Jeter, who turns 40 in June, was limited to 17 games last year after breaking an ankle during the 2012 playoffs.

"I don't think about it, and that's a good thing," Jeter said.

Jeter broke his left ankle Oct. 13, 2012, during the AL championship series opener against Detroit. He was limited to five games and 11 at-bats during spring training last year, stayed behind in Florida when the team broke camp for rehabilitation and broke the ankle again in April during rehabilitation.

"It's good to have a normal offseason and get some work in," Jeter said. "Everything is normal now."

Jeter missed the first 91 games of the 2013 season, then felt pain in his right quadriceps when he returned July 11. He went back on the DL, returned July 28 for three games, then strained his right calf.

Back in the lineup on Aug. 26, he played through Sept. 7, when he left for a pinch runner after singling against Boston. While scans of the left ankle were negative, the Yankees said four days later his season was over. Jeter wound up hitting .190 (12 for 63) with one homer and seven RBIs, playing 13 games at shortstop and four at designated hitter.

Jeter normally begins baseball activities in mid-January in preparation for spring training.

Yankees pitchers, catchers and injured players start workouts Feb. 15, with the rest of the team beginning five days later.



Silvia Rueda / Alligator

Can You See Me Now?

Ingrith Martinez shows off a butterfly inside the Florida Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Rainforest on Saturday. The museum is holding its "Mimicry, the World of Deception" exhibit through Feb. 14.

STATE

Man killed in movie texting dispute mourned

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAND O'LAKES, Fla. — A Tampa Bay-area man shot and killed during a dispute over texting at a movie theater is being remembered as a family man and fun-loving friend.

More than 300 mourners attended the funeral Saturday for Chad Oulson, requiring ushers to bring out folding chairs and open the choir loft at the Land O'Lakes Church of God.

"The world lost a great guy," said neighbor Saverio Mongelli. "He was funny, respectful, energetic about life."

Oulson's wife was shot in the hand during the dispute at the Pasco Coun-

ty theater. She did not speak at the funeral, but she hugged mourners with her left hand heavily bandaged.

In a statement last week, Nicole Oulson's lawyers said she was "grieving the death of her husband" and comforting the couple's 22-month-old daughter.

"The world lost a great guy."

Saverio Mongelli
neighbor

Retired police officer Curtis Reeves has been charged with second-degree murder and held without bail in the shooting.

Pasco County Sheriff's officials say

Reeves initially asked Oulson to stop texting. Friends have said Oulson was texting his daughter's caregiver.

According to a sheriff's office report, Reeves spoke to Oulson during the movie previews, then got up and informed management. When Reeves returned to his seat, "additional words were exchanged," and Oulson threw a bag of popcorn at Reeves.

Reeves told investigators that Oulson struck him in the face with an unknown object, and that's when he removed a gun from his pants pocket. The report said Reeves fired the gun and struck Oulson once in the chest and that he "was in fear of being attacked."

Sanford airport hopes fake grass will keep birds away

► THE PROJECT WILL COST \$500,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANFORD — A central Florida airport wants to install artificial turf to deter birds from hanging around the planes.

Sanford International Airport officials say birds cause problems for dozens of planes each year. One jet had to make an emergency landing after a bird flew into one of its engines.

In 2012, the Federal Aviation Administration spent more than \$100,000 on air cannons to scare away birds. Airport officials tell WFTV they now want to take a quieter approach.

Officials say artificial turf doesn't retain water or food, so the birds won't want to hang around the airport.

Three acres of the fake grass have been proposed for the north side of the airport at a cost of more than \$500,000. Airport officials plan to finalize the project next month.

LOCAL

Restaurant brings options to downtown

KRISTIA WATKINS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Indecisive restaurant-goers now have an eatery in Gainesville with a menu that takes the hassle out of choosing.

Five Bar opened last week in the former Smokehouse location at 104 S. Main St. It features a menu with only five snacks, five entrees and five drinks from five different categories of alcohol.

The new location is the fourth in the restaurant family that also has locations in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Athens.

Each location has menu offerings that are unique to its city. For example, the Gainesville restaurant offers a glazed shrimp dish while the Tuscaloosa restaurant serves olive cheese bites.

"We like to keep it simple, but we like to keep it good at the same time," said server Kim Vacca, a 21-year-old UF sustainability and the built environment senior.

Five Bar co-founder Charles

Morgan opened his first restaurant, Harbor Docks, in Destin, said Gainesville Five Bar general manager Ben Janca.

This kind of dining started in 2011 in Tuscaloosa, Janca said. Owners wanted to simplify the menu for their patrons.

"We put together what we think is a cool place that's eye-appealing. Then you walk in and you have this atmosphere and this meal that's not typical."

Ben Janca

Gainesville Five Bar general manager

The company also has a charity program called American Lunch, which has a food truck that travels around to different cities to feed the homeless, Janca said.

The restaurant lets the food and the atmosphere speak for itself, he said.

"We put together what we think is a cool place that's eye-appealing. Then you walk in, and you have this

atmosphere and this meal that's not typical," he said about the restaurant, decorated with chandeliers, an open-wood ceiling and local artwork.

Its location in downtown Gainesville gives the restaurant the best diversity of people, he added.

"There are always ... city officials, young professionals, doctors, lawyers, service industry workers and everything in between," Janca wrote in an email. "We try to make a common ground that everyone enjoys and can take part of."

Janca said the restaurant also offers a New Orleans-style brunch with a live jazz band playing every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Courtney Lehan, a 19-year-old UF health science sophomore, said she decided to visit the restaurant when she went downtown for dinner. Lehan said she enjoyed her entree: bacon-wrapped shrimp stuffed with crabmeat.

"The food here is worth the risk of trying a new restaurant," Lehan said.



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 by David L. Hoyt 1-21-14

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 4. Movie: "Boogie _____" TGIHSN

CLUE: Old West features.

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Prather returns with strong showing off bench

LANDON WATNICK

Alligator Staff Writer @LandonWatnick

Prior to Florida's 68-61 win at Auburn on Saturday, coach Billy Donovan listed Casey Prather as active but doubted his senior forward would play much.

The original plan was to have Prather, who had missed Florida's last two contests with a bone bruise in his right knee, come off the bench and log limited minutes.

But after he saw Prather moving well and dominating

offensively against the Tigers in the first half, Donovan made a different call.

"I told our team before the game that, with him being back, we're not going to put pressure on him for him to come back to the form he was at maybe a

week or two ago, just because his rhythm and those type of things," Donovan said.

"But that all went out of the window at the end of the first half when he had 16 (points), so he was clearly going to play a lot more minutes."

"I told our team before the game that, with him being back, we're not going to put pressure on him for him to come back to the form he was at maybe a week or two ago, just because his rhythm and those type of things."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

Prather finished with 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting, a 5-of-7 clip from the free-throw line and six rebounds in 29 minutes off the bench. He was quick off his step against Auburn and did not look hampered by his injury

"My knee felt great," Prather said. "I didn't really notice any pain at all."

Prather subbed into the game about three minutes into the first half and immediately made an impact. On his first offensive possession, the 6-foot-6 senior took a feed from Patric Young down the lane and sunk a hook shot.

"I wasn't really thinking

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Casey Prather attempts a free throw against South Carolina on Jan. 8 in the O'Connell Center. Prather scored 21 points against Auburn after recovering from a bone bruise in his right knee.

Rebounds, fouls doom UF against UGA

GORDON STREISAND

Alligator Writer

@GordonStreisand

Rebounding and foul trouble are again leading the Gators down a dark path.

In Sunday's 68-62 loss to Georgia, Florida was taken to the woodshed, getting outrebounded by a margin of 20 — the second straight game in which the Gators were outrebounded by 20 or more.

"Obviously, we're very disappointed in the way we played in the second half and the way that we rebounded the entire game, but that's just our battle to fight," coach Amanda Butler said.

"We're obviously giving up a little bit of size and that's what makes the box outs that much more important. Winning the rebounding battle is important, but as long as it's close, it's always going to swing one way or the other ... I was just

really disappointed. I thought there were a lot of hustle-play balls, long rebounds and things like that that we could have tracked down. They did a really good job of converting those balls into points. That's something that we put in the category of preventable plays."

UF Women's Basketball

Added senior Jaterra Bonds: "Ultimately, it was the second-chance points and points off of turnovers. They had 16 points off of turnovers and 22 second-chance points, and they killed us in both categories."

The Gators' leading rebounder on Sunday was freshman Ronni Williams, who tallied eight boards. Williams was on her way to a double-double until she

fouled out with fewer than five minutes remaining in the game.

Down the stretch, Williams' presence was missed. The Gators were outrebounded 11-3 in the game's final five minutes.

All of Florida's (13-5, 3-2 Southeastern Conference) losses have come when Williams fouls out. She has fouled out of 11 games so far this season.

The Gators were in the lead for the majority of Sunday's contest, which can be directly attributed to the 18 turnovers Georgia committed in the first half. In that span, Florida committed nine.

"Florida came out and jumped on us, and we didn't handle it well," Georgia coach Andy Landers said. "It affected our pass-catch timing and shot selection and

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 15

LANDON PUNCHES

Sherman

OK by me

By now, you've probably read about or listened to Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman's controversial postgame comments following his team's 23-17 win in the NFC Championship over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night.



Landon Watnick
Twitter: @landonwatnick

If not, how comfy is that rock you've been hiding under?

For those who don't know, Sherman went on

an epic rampage during his postgame interview with FOX sideline reporter Erin Andrews after the biggest play of his career — a deflection of a pass intended for 49ers receiver Michael Crabtree in the end zone that fell into the hands of Seattle linebacker Malcolm Smith to seal to game.

When Andrews asked Sherman after the game's defining play, he went off the tracks.

Sherman labeled himself as "the best corner in the game" and rubbed a container's worth of Morton Salt into Crabtree's wounds, calling his nemesis a "sorry receiver."

"Don't you open your mouth about the best, or I'm gonna shut it for you real quick."

Richard Sherman
Seattle Seahawks cornerback

"Don't you ever talk about me," Sherman exclaimed, referring to Crabtree.

Then, Andrews followed up by asking: "Who was talking about you?"

And Sherman kept going.

"Crabtree," Sherman said. "Don't you open your mouth about the best, or I'm going to shut it for you real quick."

Sherman then ended his interview by shouting "L.O.B.," an acronym for the Seahawks defense's nickname Legion of Boom.

Seconds following Sherman's comments, social media unsurprisingly exploded, and plenty of hate was directed Sherman's way.

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 15



Florida picked up a verbal commitment from a former South Florida recruit. [Read the story on page 14.](#)

Gator stars in CONCACAF tournament

UF freshman forward Savannah Jordan was named to the CONCACAF U-20 Tournament's Best 11 team after she scored five goals in the United States' five wins. The USA team will advance to the World Cup in August.

Poll Results

Will the Florida men's basketball team lose in the O'Connell Center this season?

31% YES
69% NO

74 total votes

Gators improve on shaky opening meet against Tigers

Sloan won uneven bars, all-around

ERICA A. HERNANDEZ

Alligator Writer

@EricaAlyssa

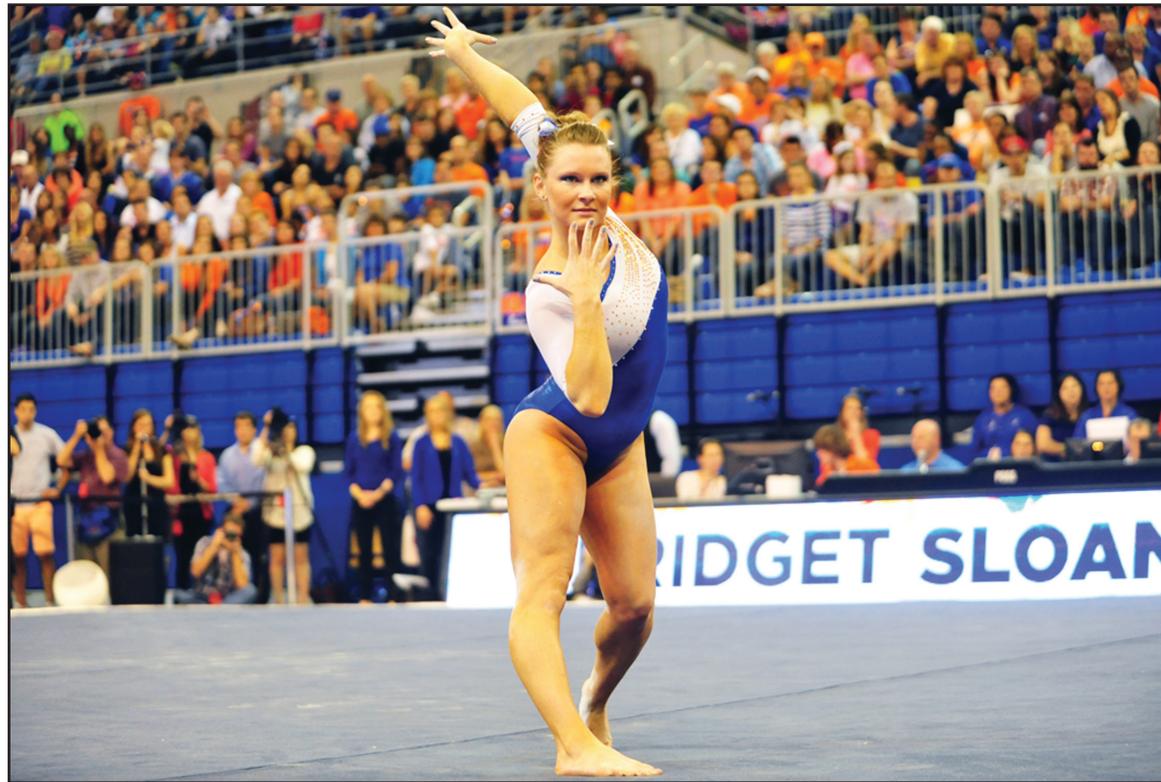
Two weeks into the 2014 gymnastics season, the Gators have already begun the uphill battle

toward improvement. Florida improved to 2-0 after a road win against Auburn on Friday night, winning 197.075-196.225.

"They competed more aggressively," coach Rhonda Faehn said.

"Especially, I feel they had more energy."

UF's score against Auburn was .425 higher than the 196.65 the team posted against UCLA during the season opener on Jan.



Alligator File Photo

Bridget Sloan performs her floor routine during Florida's 198.10-196.85 win against Alabama on Feb. 8, 2013, in the O'Connell Center. Sloan won two events against Auburn on Saturday.

11. With the victory, UF climbed from a tie for fourth to the No. 3 in the national team rankings. Oklahoma and LSU are ahead of UF at No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

Florida's improvements were not only seen at the team level; individuals such as senior Mackenzie Caquatto also made strides in the second meet of the year.

After receiving one of the worst scores in Florida history against UCLA in floor (8.40), Caquatto turned around to win the balance beam (9.95) event against Auburn.

"She was thrilled," Faehn said. "That's what she's really capable of doing. She just really lit up the floor."

"Last week was fluky ... it was nice to see her rebound."

Caquatto, who competed in all-around at UCLA, participated in every event except floor against Auburn.

"She put in great routines; we could have easily competed her," Faehn said. "We felt we maybe overwhelmed her in the first meet."

Caquatto's 9.925 on vault tied her collegiate best, which she set on Feb. 22, 2013, in a home meet against Kentucky. Faehn said her vault Friday was the best she has ever seen from Caquatto.

"I feel we were more confident [Saturday]," Caquatto said in a release.

"We had the first meet of the season behind us ... We were really loud and having fun. When

we have fun, that's when we do our best. The energy was high and that helped us perform our best."

Sophomore Bridget Sloan also tied her collegiate best on vault with a 9.95. Sloan secured wins in both uneven bars (9.925) and all-around (39.700).

"Her performance [Saturday] was on par with where she was at the national championship," Faehn said.

Freshman Silvia Colussi-Pelaez competed for the first time with the Gators. Colussi-Pelaez exhibitioned floor (9.60) and uneven bars (9.125), where she took a fall against UCLA. However, she improved to a 9.725 on floor in Auburn, Ala.

"She did well enough at UCLA," Faehn said. "She trained really well, so we wanted to give her the opportunity."

Claire Boyce, Florida's other freshman, competed for the second time in both balance beam and floor.

While her balance beam remained consistent with what she posted against UCLA (9.85), Boyce's floor routine lost some spark between California and Alabama. A fall during her floor routine turned the 9.825 she scored against UCLA into a meet low of 9.125 on floor.

"That was an odd fall on floor; that was unusual for her and I'm sure she's not happy with it," Faehn said.

"Falls can be positive because you have to learn from [them]."

RECRUITING

Former South Florida commit switches to Florida after getting offer

MORGAN MORIARTY

Alligator Writer

@Morgan_Moriarty

Three-star prospect Deiondre Porter out of Tampa Jefferson High verbally committed to UF on Monday night.

Porter received an offer from Florida last week, and as a result, he decommitted from USF. He took his official visit to Gainesville last weekend and chose UF over USF, UCF and Miami.

After Porter's decision, UF's 2014 class has 22 commits. The class is currently ranked seventh in the country, according to Ri-

vals.com.

Barring further attrition, the Gators have four more scholarships available.

Final rankings released: Rivals released its final top 100 player rankings for 2014 on Monday. UF's class currently has four commits in the rankings, including quarterback Will Grier, defensive tackle Thomas Holley, defensive end Gerald Willis III and cornerback Jalen Tabor.

The rankings have several UF targets in them as well.

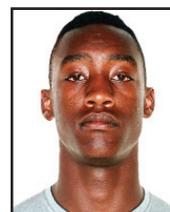
Florida State verbal commit

Treon Harris took an official visit to Florida this weekend.

Harris is the third-ranked dual-threat quarterback in the 2014 class, and he will receive an in-home visit from coach Will Muschamp on Tuesday.

Five-star athlete Adoree' Jackson is the No. 6 recruit on the list. Jackson has offers from Florida State, Oregon, LSU and others. Jackson could wind up at UF because of its powerhouse track program, which has won five titles in three seasons.

Jackson is highly interested in



Porter

pursuing a track career while attending college. He currently does not have any official visits scheduled for the rest of the month.

Offensive tackle Damian Prince is the No. 20 prospect in the final 100, and running backs coach Brian White visited him last week.

Prince took an official visit to South Carolina this past weekend, and he will take his final official

visit to Gainesville on Jan. 31 — just five days before National Signing Day. Prince is the No. 2 offensive tackle recruit in the 2014 class.

Defensive end Lorenzo Carter, the No. 36 prospect in the nation, is the last UF target in the final 100 ranking. Carter visited LSU this weekend, and he will take his last officials to FSU and Georgia.

New UGA defensive coordinator Jeremy Pruitt, hired from FSU last week, could have an advantage having recruited him while in Tallahassee.

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AP Photo

Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman (25) hits the ball away from San Francisco receiver Michael Crabtree (15) during the NFC Championship game on Sunday in Seattle.

Postgame interview showed cornerback's passion, intensity

COLUMN, from page 13

In an instant, he became a villain — and Twitter became a Denver Broncos fan.

But I don't get why people are vilifying Sherman. Although his postgame remarks were wild and somewhat uncivilized, they were incredibly refreshing.

How could you not love an athlete for expressing his raw emotion after possibly the biggest moment of his entire career?

In most postgame interviews, clichés and contrived messages such as “take it one game at a time” and “just played hard for my teammates” are go-tos for athletes. Even some athletes who accomplish outstanding achievements, like winning Super Bowls or NBA titles, fall back on these empty responses when the buzzer sounds and the microphones and recorders are held to their faces.

At least Sherman tried to spice it up Sunday. You have to respect him for at least doing that.

Unfortunately, many people now are going to jump on the We Hate Richard Sherman Bandwagon, and for a poor reason. The third-year corner out of Stanford has always been outspoken, and that quality has never

adversely affected him or his team.

We're talking about a guy who once told Skip Bayless on live television, “I'm better at life than you,” after the First Take host questioned Sherman's claim that he's the best player in the league at his position. (Sure, that's mean, but he may have a point.)

At least Sherman has backed up his cocky demeanor with his play during the past few seasons. I'm all for fiery comments that won't hurt team morale or chemistry in the long run. If his teammates don't have a problem with them, I don't.

Monday, Sherman apologized for the remarks and attacking Crabtree. But we all know somebody in his ear told him what to say.

Regardless, what happened in the heat of the moment will forever live on and represent Sherman's natural emotions after his team's win. That's why I love it when a guy like Sherman says something eye-popping but not too explicit or inappropriate during a postgame interview.

You can't criticize Sherman for being himself — especially when emotions are high after a big game.

As Sherman would say, “stop [complaining] and [just] adapt.”

Frazier goes cold in win

HOOPS, from page 13

about it at that moment, but I'm glad it went in,” Prather said.

“At the same time, I was just trying to stay humble and not rush things or try to do too much.”

In his first 10 minutes on the floor, Prather went 5-of-5 shooting for 14 points as the then-No. 7 Gators (15-2, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) led by 13 points.

“[Frazier's] got to find different ways to move. He's got to be able to play the game without shooting it. We tried to do some things to get him some shots.”

Billy Donovan
UF coach

Although Prather went quiet offensively during the final five minutes of Saturday's contest, his performance early put Florida in a position to win.

Frazier struggles in victory: A game after his career scoring night, sophomore guard Michael Frazier II finished with perhaps his worst shooting performance as a Gator.

Frazier followed up his 21-point performance on 7-of-16 shooting in Florida's 72-50 win against Georgia on Tuesday with a scoreless af-

fair Saturday against Auburn. The sophomore missed both of his three-point attempts in the first half and committed two turnovers in only 19 minutes on the floor.

During the game's final 6:08, Frazier logged only 28 seconds on the court as the team went with a backcourt lineup featuring point guards Kasey Hill and Scottie Wilbekin.

“He's got to find different ways to move,” Donovan said. “He's got to be able to play the game without shooting it. We tried to do some things to get him some shots.”

“The first shot was an airball and the second shot he missed. And then, you could just see that he was mentally taken out of the game. He's got to realize that he can't play the game waiting for his next shot. He's done such a good job defensively for us really all year long, but this is a game where I thought he had some lapses defensively and really had a hard time defending.

“But as a young guy and a sophomore, understanding when coming off a big game, you almost have to be that much more mentally prepared, because you know you're going to see another team's best because they're not going to let you take that many threes.”

Gators fall despite first-half lead

W-HOOPS, from page 13

it led to 18 turnovers in the first half. That was ugly. That was really ugly. The second half, we did a much better job of that. By virtue of taking care of the ball, we had opportunities to shoot and score and overcome the lead.”

And when the Bulldogs cleaned up, the Gators wilted, getting outscored 44-32 in the second half.

“You have to give Georgia a lot of credit for the way they played, the way they shot the ball,” Butler said. “They did some things that were a little bit outside of their scouting report and what they've done to this point. You have to give them a lot of credit for hitting big shots, making plays and taking advantage of the things where we had weaknesses where they were very strong.”

Georgia was sharp from beyond the arc on Sunday, shooting 36.4 percent compared to Florida's 21.4 percent.

The Gators had a better overall shooting percentage, committed less turnovers and forced more steals on Sunday, but the Bulldogs bested them the charity stripe and, ultimately, on the scoreboard.

“For us, which is what we're most concerned with, we just need to put together 40 minutes of tough play with no gaps in that toughness,” Butler said. “Nobody is going to play flawless, but we've got to have a lot more battle and a lot more heart and the way we pursue the ball

is really, really important. But, you're also playing in the SEC, in the best league in the country and you don't have much time to

sit around and cry about this one because there's another big one that's coming. That's just life at this time of year.”



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Cassie Peoples attempts a three-point shot against Georgia on Sunday in the O'Connell Center. UGA outscored UF by 12 in the second half.

Gators looking ahead to conference-championship meet

Florida has 21 combined 'A' cuts

LOGAN MCGUIRE

Alligator Writer @loganjmcguire

With two dual meets remaining this season and the Southeastern Conference Championships a month away for the No. 3 Florida men (6-0, 3-0 SEC) and No. 8 women (4-2, 2-1 SEC), the season's last head-to-head matchups are being used to gauge how Florida's swimmers are racing and what final adjustments are needed.

"The two dress rehearsal meets at the end of the month will be real key for us: competing against Auburn here ... at home

and going to Tennessee," coach Gregg Troy said.

"Both those meets' start times are the same times as the prelims at the NCAA and SEC meets, so it gives us a great chance to see how those folks will respond in good competition early in the day."

However, Troy stressed that the results from Florida's next two meets are not drawing his focus, making it clear he is sternly set on the conference championship on Feb. 18 and national championship on March 27.

He said nobody would remember the dual meets by the time SECs come around. But he is not letting his swimmers take those competitions easy.

UF Swimming

"Now, if we get someone qualified at the meet, that's real big. So, we've got a few people that haven't qualified," Troy said. "And if you're qualified, then your preparation for the conference meet is a little different than your preparation if you haven't qualified."

The Gators have notched eight men's and 13 women's NCAA "A" cuts across 13 different events, including every relay except the men's 200-yard freestyle relay and

200-yard medley relay, guaranteeing those swimmers and relay squads a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Senior Elizabeth Beisel has notched four "A" cuts — including one relay — leading the team for most individual qualifications at three. But with sophomore Sinead Russel and senior Elise Zalewski swimming on all five relays, the duo totals the most qualifications for the Gators with seven and six, respectively.

On the men's side, the powerhouse duo of senior Marcin Cieslak and redshirt senior Sebastien Rousseau continue to succeed with the postseason nearing. Rousseau and Cieslak both have four total "A" cuts to go with senior Brad deBorde's two.

GATORS IN THE NFL

Former UF coordinator leads Seattle defense to Super Bowl



AP Photo

San Francisco 49ers' Colin Kaepernick fumbles as he is hit by Seattle Seahawks' Cliff Avril during the second half of the NFC Championship game Sunday in Seattle.

JORDAN MCPHERSON

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Dan Quinn has proved to be the 12th man for the Seahawks in his first season as Seattle's defensive coordinator.

The first-year Seahawks coach's defense forced 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick into committing three turnovers late in Sunday's game as Seattle punched its way into Super Bowl XLVIII with its 23-17 victory against San Francisco in the NFC Championship game.

Quinn, Florida's defensive coordinator from 2011-12, saw his defensive unit continue the dominance it displayed all season, limiting San Francisco to 12 or fewer yards on seven of its 11 drives on Sunday.

After a back-and-forth game through the first three quarters, the Seahawks took their first lead of the game with 13:44 left on the clock. Quinn's defense took control from there.

With the 49ers down by three points and fewer than eight minutes left in the game, Kaepernick threw a pass intended for receiver Anquan Boldin that was intercepted by Seattle safety Kam Chancellor.

The Seahawks would take four minutes off the clock and kick a field goal on the ensuing possession to widen their lead to 23-17 with 3:37 remaining.

With one chance left to win the game, Kaepernick looked poised. He orchestrated an eight-play, 60-yard drive to bring the 49ers to the Seahawks' 18-yard line.

But with 30 seconds left on the clock, Kaepernick dropped back and threw a deep pass to the right side of the endzone, looking for Michael Crabtree. Cornerback Richard Sherman deflected the pass into the arms of linebacker Malcolm Smith, effectively ending the game.

Since Quinn returned to the Seahawks after serving as

their defensive line coach in 2009 and 2010, Seattle's defense has improved in almost every statistical category. When the regular season ended, the Seahawks ranked first in total yards (273.6) and total passing yards (172.0) allowed per game; they also led the NFL with 39 turnovers — eight more than they forced in 2012.

While working at Florida in between stints with Seattle, Quinn led the Gators to a top-10 ranking in total defense and scoring defense in both 2011 and 2012. The Gators gave up an average of 293.1 yards per game and 17.4 points per game during the two years he helmed the defense, numbers that increased this season to 314.3 and 21.1, respectively, for Florida.

During Quinn's tenure at UF, opposing defenses converted only 29.1 percent of their third-down attempts; that number increased to 34 percent in 2013.



Gerard donated in his mother's name.

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