

OPENING DAY

INSIDE

► UF is looking to key players to boost its power numbers. Read the story on page 3.

ONLINE

► Visit alligatorSports.org for complete coverage of Florida's opening weekend.

A SHOT AT REDEMPTION



Chip on his shoulder

Whitson looks to return to past performance in '14

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

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You don't know what you have till it's gone. Maybe it's a cliché, but for Karsten Whitson, who will play for the first time in nearly two years on Sunday, it rings true.

Whitson had a \$2.1 million contract to play professional baseball after being selected ninth overall by the San Diego Padres, then a stellar start to his college career and pending ace-hood lined up for him.

Then, all of that vanished.

Whitson suffered from nagging shoulder fatigue before the 2013 season started and elected to have shoulder surgery — performed by renowned surgeon Dr. James Andrews — to repair an impingement.

The impingement was relatively good news. Whitson's shoulder was intact — his labrum and rotator cuff were not damaged. Impingements just cause tendons around the rotator cuff to become irritated and inflamed.

However, the surgery ended Whitson's season and cast his future into doubt.

The then-junior rode out the season on the bench, and when the MLB Draft rolled around

in June, Whitson was selected in the 37th round, 1,126th overall — a 1,117-pick drop from where he was selected in 2010. The slotted salary of a 37th round draft pick is \$100,000 or fewer — not quite near the \$2.1 million he could have cashed in.

Was it worth it?

"Absolutely," Whitson said. "It's easy for people to say, 'Do you have any regrets?' It is what it is."

"I feel like I'm in a great place right now, I've made some great relationships, and I've played some great baseball."

• • •

When you're selected ninth overall, there aren't a lot of obvious benefits to postponing your payday.

If your goal is to play professional baseball, you can't get off to a much better start.

Some players picked in the first round use college as leverage to get more dollars or hold off for a selection. Sometimes it pays off.

The New York Yankees selected Gerrit Cole out of high school with the 28th pick in the first round of the 2008 draft.

The Yankees threw money at Cole, reportedly offering him \$4 million to sign. Like Whitson, Cole turned the money down.

But unlike Whitson, Cole cruised through college ball. He was the Friday night starter in his first season at UCLA and averaged more than a strikeout per inning with the Bruins.

Cole's gamble paid off. When he was eligible for the draft again in 2011, the Pittsburgh Pirates made him the No. 1 overall pick, and Cole signed for more than \$8 million. He made his successful Major League debut in 2013 and is a lock for the top end of the Pirates' rotation in 2014.

Was Whitson planning the same?

Not according to his mother, Melissa Whitson, who told the Alligator in 2012 that Karsten would say, "It wasn't coach (Kevin) O'Sullivan's job to entice him away from the Padres; it was the Padres' job to entice him away from coach O'Sullivan and the UF program."

Whitson's first years at UF were successful, and he seemed poised to possibly make that tough jump from top-10 pick to No. 1 pick.

Perfect Game named him the top freshman pitcher in the country after he went 8-1 with a 2.40 ERA in 2011. His strikeout-to-walk ratio was a solid 3.3:1, and he led a team that featured 12 pitchers who are now playing professionally in punchouts.

But Whitson struggled to follow up on his success during his sophomore season.

Whitson was limited throughout the season due to shoulder fatigue — something he became all too familiar with later in his career.

He missed more than a month of the season, finishing the year with only 33.1 innings pitched in 14 appearances, 10 of which were starts. When he did play, he struggled with his command, walking 18 batters compared to only 20 strikeouts.

He was ready to start the 2013 season, anxious to get back on the field, but his surgery delayed that another year.

"I kind of pitched through some stuff my sophomore year," Whitson said. "Going off of those experiences, I told myself, 'I really want to be 100 percent.'"

"If I've got something nagging that's going on, I want to take care of it now. So that way I'm not pitching hurt in the season, because that's not going to help the team, and it's not going to help me in the long run."

Now is his time to show he is still that first-round talent.

"I just think I'm a guy that teams would want to have," Whitson said. "I think I've kind of faced some adversity in college. I've been



Alligator File Photo

Karsten Whitson pitches during UF's 5-0 win against USF on Feb. 20, 2011. Whitson missed the entire 2013 season after undergoing shoulder surgery in February 2013.



Alligator File Photo

Karsten Whitson pitches during UF's 5-0 win against USF on Feb. 20, 2011. The red-shirt junior will make his first start in nearly two years against Maryland on Sunday.

through some things that I can kind of put a feather in my cap. It hasn't broken me."

• • •

Sunday cannot come fast enough.

O'Sullivan pegged Whitson as the Sunday starter for Florida's opening series against Maryland behind junior left-hander Bobby Poyner and freshman righty Brett Morales. Although Whitson has bundles of talent, O'Sullivan wants to ease him back into the routine of pitching in a rotation.

"It's been a while since he's been on the mound," O'Sullivan said. "I thought it was important for him to come back and take a few games in."

It has been almost two years since Whitson last saw action in a college game. Then a sophomore, he picked up a win in two-thirds

of an inning of relief against NC State during the NCAA Super Regionals. He took plenty of games in from the bench in the meantime.

"You're here for three years and build relationships, and guys expect you to be out there with them," Whitson said. "It's tough when you have to deal with an injury like that."

Said catcher Taylor Gushue: "It was hard because that amount of talent was sitting on the bench. It's hard as a player knowing that that's there and it's not accessible. But he has done a good job helping out our team this year. Now that the younger guys can look at him and they can see how he goes about his business on a day-to-day basis, I think that he will be a big factor on how well we do this year."

Sitting out wasn't a total loss, Whitson said. He learned ways to become a leader on the team without being out on the mound — ways he hopes translate to the field in his fourth season at Florida.

Whitson is one of only two fourth-year pitchers on the roster this season — the other is Keenan Kish, another pitcher who missed most of last season with an injury. There are no true seniors.

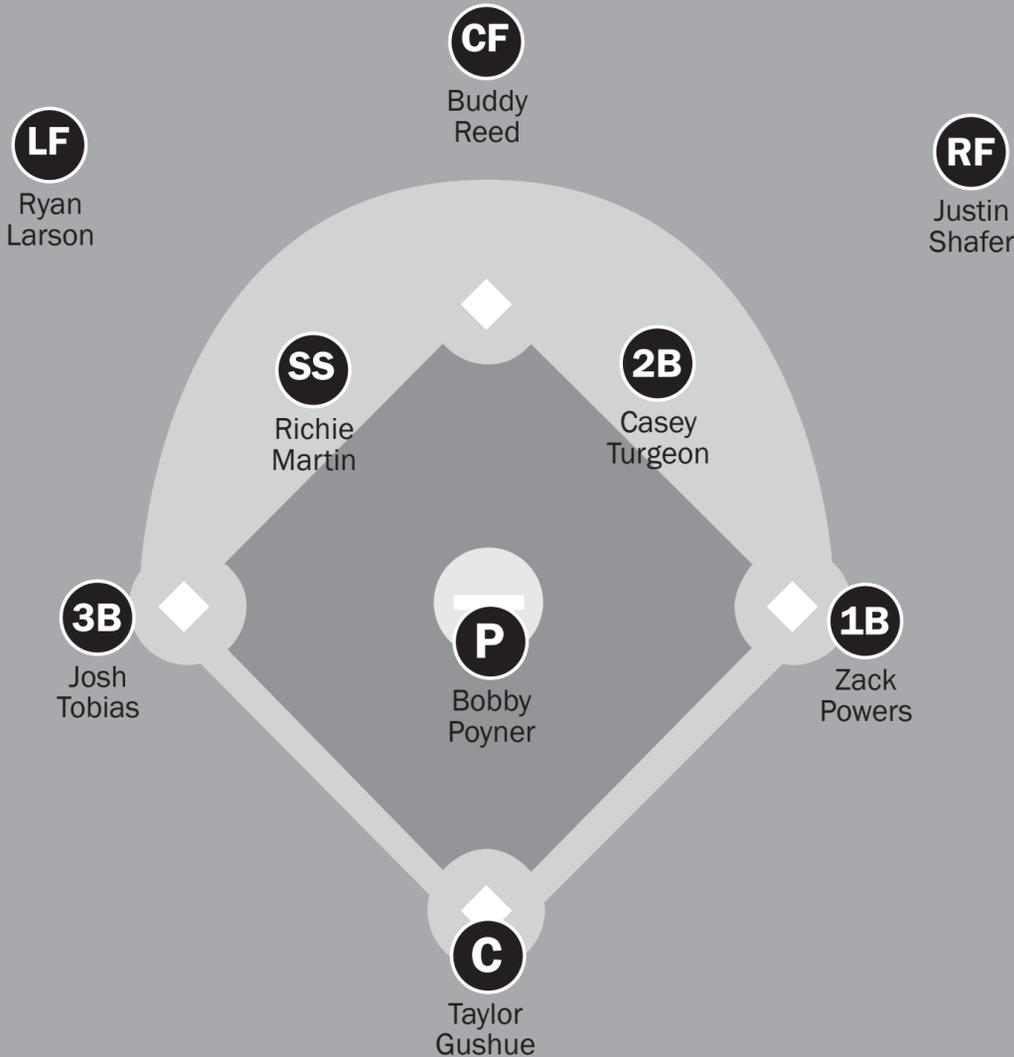
As a veteran member of the pitching staff, Whitson is going to be the rock O'Sullivan will try to base his rotation around.

"The bottom line is he needs to be good for us to be good," O'Sullivan said.

And that is what Whitson is trying to focus on. Although the MLB Draft and his future are important, that isn't where his mind is.

"Things are just in perspective for me after going through some of the things I've been through," he said. "Just being healthy right now and just having fun with these guys and looking forward to the season — there's really not much more to think about than that."

FLORIDA projected lineup



HOME GAMES

FEBRUARY

Feb. 14-16 Maryland
Feb. 18 UCF
Feb. 19 North Florida
Feb. 27 Florida Gulf Coast
Feb. 28 Illinois

MARCH

March 1 Florida Gulf Coast
March 2 Illinois
March 7-9 Connecticut
March 12 Illinois State
March 14-16 Arkansas
March 18 Florida State
March 28-30 LSU

APRIL

April 1 FAU
April 18-20 Georgia
April 22 Jacksonville
April 23 Florida A&M
April 27 Missouri

MAY

May 6 Mercer
May 8-10 Vanderbilt
May 13 USF

Scottie Wilbekin is leading Florida on offense and defense. Read the story on page 12.



♥ **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY** ♥

LOCAL

Businesses feeling the love from Valentine's sales

ALINA AVALOS, NATHAN KING and TAYLOR WIDOM
 Alligator Contributing Writers

Love is in the air for Gainesville businesses.

Local flower shops are expecting a bloom in sales, liquor stores are preparing for wine-fueled dates and businesses are facing a shortage of balloons because of a worldwide

helium shortage.

Several local florists have hired extra staff to help accommodate the increase in orders.

Gainesville Floral Exchange shop assistant Tiffany Richards said the store, 635 NW 13th St., receives between six and 10 orders on a normal day of the year.

But during the Valentine's Day season, which runs from Wednesday

"It doesn't go more than five minutes of quiet."

Crystal Rodriguez
 assistant florist, Gainesville Flower

to Saturday, it's a different story.

"We process about 1,000 orders in three days," she said. "That's a lot."

Richards said the store hires about 60 extra workers just to keep

up with business.

The situation is similar at other local shops.

Crystal Rodriguez, assistant florist and receptionist at Gainesville Flower, 3545 SW 34th St., said the store's phones ring off the hook during and leading up to the holiday.

"It doesn't go more than five minutes of quiet," she said.

And with about 500 orders on

Valentine's Day alone, she said workers don't get a chance to sit down. The store has to hire three to four extra people to help.

Even with a higher holiday price point, she said the store sometimes runs out of flowers, especially of this season's trend: pink roses.

But whatever choice a customer makes, Richards said she thinks it

SEE VALENTINE, PAGE 4

UF announcing acceptances on Feb. 14 a first

► SOME AREN'T IN LOVE WITH THE DATE.

SARAH LOFTUS
 Alligator Staff Writer

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Alex Wicks, an Olympic Heights Community High School senior, has his heart set on attending UF. But as excited as he is for his possible acceptance, he's not going to let UF's choice to release admissions decisions on Valentine's Day ruin his romantic day.

The 17-year-old is waiting until Saturday to check so he can spend the evening at dinner with his girlfriend and then take her to the beach.

In previous years, UF has released its decisions on Feb. 12, 13 and 15, but never Valentine's Day.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said UF has released decisions the same Friday in February the past couple of years and saw no reason to change it this year.

"I never even heard a conversation about it," he said.

SEE ADMISSION, PAGE 4



Rachel Crosby / Alligator Staff

Brotherhood

Candles lit by UF Sigma Beta Rho brothers sit beside memorial photos of the four University of South Florida students and Sigma Beta Rho brothers who died last weekend in Tampa during a head-on collision on Interstate-275.

UF professor leaves honors advising to open downtown brewery

The Main Street business will open in July

ERIN MEISENZAHL-PEACE
 Alligator Contributing Writer

John Denny quit his job for beer.

The former associate director of the UF honors program left his position Jan. 30 to launch First Magnitude Brewing Co., a new craft beer production brewery set to open on

South Main Street in July.

Denny and his wife Christine will run the business with another couple, Meg and Wells The Losen. Denny will take on the role of head brewer.

"This is a dream that I've been kicking around with my wife and a couple other partners, and we're finally going to execute it,"

Denny said. "Here I have an opportunity to combine something that I really love with a way to make a living."

Denny's love for craft beer emerged 20 years ago, when he began homebrewing after taking a class at Santa Fe Community College.

For years, Denny has devoted his free time

to distilling new drinks. He entered brewing competitions through the Hogtown Brewers and won various awards for his creative kitchen concoctions. Come July, he'll be crafting those concoctions in a new microbrewery located in downtown near Innovation Square.

First Magnitude will host brewery tours and have a taproom where customers can try year-round and seasonal beers. There's an increasing demand for it in Gainesville,

SEE BREW, PAGE 4

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Flappy Bird creator, players all tapped out

The game was taken down Sunday, pg 3.

UF organizations hope to give goats to Ugandan orphans

Orphans can raise them for money, pg 5.



Common tells UF students about hard work, ways to success

About 1,200 tickets were picked up, pg 3.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Institute of Hispanic and Latino

Cultures Love Talk 101

Come to the Institute of Hispanic and Latino Cultures (La Casita) today at 12:30 p.m. for our Love Talk 101. On Valentine's Day people focus on loving their significant others with luscious gifts, but what about loving yourself? In Love Talk 101 you will learn tips and tricks to love yourself both physically, mentally and emotionally from learning what foods to eat to how to overcome self-defeating thoughts, we've got it here. Plus, you'll get the chance to decorate your own Valentine's Day cookie.

Valentine's Swing Dance

You don't need to have your own dance partner because we have plenty. East Coast Swing/Lindy Hop is the best dance ever and even better when there is love in the air along with baked goods, games and ridiculous decorations. Today at the Unified Training Center, beginner lessons will start at 8 p.m., and social dancing will run from 9 p.m. to midnight. Entrance is \$5.

Black History Month Family Day

Come visit the Harn Museum on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. for a free Family Day commemorating Black History Month. Take a tour of the exhibitions Kongo Across the Waters and Cosmopolitan: Envisioning Global Communities with a Harn guide, learn traditional African dancing with guest artist Noni Jones, and experience the Fort Mosé display. After enjoying the exhibition, create personal adornments made from recycled materials from Gainesville's Repurpose Project. Admission and parking is free with a suggested donation of \$2 per child or \$5 per family for the art activity. For more information, visit harn.ufl.edu.

BOSS first meeting

Business Oriented and Sports Savvy women is a new student organization that educates, empowers and equips women in the field of sports. Not only will you learn the basics of sports and the business behind it, but you will also get to meet prominent figures within the sports industry through guest speakers, facility tours, conferences, sporting events and so much more. So join B.O.S.S. Women at its first general body meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Little Hall, Room 125 with guest speaker sports director Steve Russell.

Authors @ UF: Steven Noll and David Tegeger

Professors Steven Noll and David Tegeger will discuss their book "Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida's

FORECAST

TODAY



SUNNY
66/50

SATURDAY



RAIN
67/39

SUNDAY



SUNNY
68/42

MONDAY



SUNNY
74/46

TUESDAY



PARTLY
CLOUDY
76/51

Future" on Monday at 7 p.m. in Smathers Library East, Room 100. The book examines the long-standing effort to build a canal across Florida.

Sustainable Event Planning Workshop

Please join us Monday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Rinker Hall, Room 106, to learn sustainable event planning tips and how easy the Sustainable Event Certification Program process is. This program is through the UF Office of Sustainability and consists of a short Sustainable Event Planning Guide and an easy application for certification. The idea is any organization can host "green" events, regardless if the organization has a sustainability focus.

GatorWell focus group participants needed

GatorWell is looking for UF students to participate in a one-hour confidential focus group about interpersonal violence issues on campus. These focus groups will occur from Tuesday to March 14 at the GatorWell location on Radio Road. Each participant will receive a \$20 UF Bookstore gift card and free pizza. To participate, email GatorWellProjects@mail.ufl.edu with your contact information. Use "My Campus" as the subject line. Must be 18 years or older and a currently enrolled UF student.

Latino Festival Planning Meeting

The 13th annual Downtown Latino Festival Planning Meeting will happen Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita), 1504 W. University Ave.

Catholic Student Fellowship

The fellowship meets every Thursday at 6:15 p.m. in the lounge of St. Augustine's Catholic Student Center, 1738 W. University Ave., for praise, worship, prayer, faith sharing, fellowship and guest speakers.

Empowerment service trip to Colombia

Sign up to go on one of Children Beyond Our Borders' Bound For Peace service trips to the beautiful cities of Medellín or Cartagena in Colombia. Volunteers are trained to build and execute education empowerment workshops for at-risk youth in Colombia. There will be a one-week trip during Spring

Break and two two-week trips at the end of summer. Trip prices vary but include housing, food, transportation and the plane ticket. If you are interested in signing up or have any questions, email the coordinators at servicetripinfo@chbob.org or visit chbob.org.

Gator Wesley Love Campaign

Gator Wesley will be on the Plaza of the Americas this week asking the question "What is Love?" Stop by for free candy and the chance to answer the question, make your own buttons and write cards to elderly people in Gainesville.

Ubisoft Facebook drawing

Ubisoft is one of the world's largest video game producers in the world and is represented at UF. Enter February Frenzy for a chance to win cash prizes and free swag. Enter by going onto the Ubisoft at University of Florida Facebook page and click on the link in the latest status update. Like all three pages, and enter your name and email.

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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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

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CAMPUS

Common tells UF students about hard work, ways to success

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer

bdupuy@alligator.org

Greatness is not a common path. Actor, singer and musician Common told UF students Thursday night that he had to work hard to attain his success.

Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr., whose performer name is Common, encouraged students to "find, believe and live their paths" to greatness at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday night.

Accent Speaker's Bureau and Black History Month brought Common back to UF, where he previously performed in 2006.

During the evening, Common told his life story, rapped and answered questions during a Q-and-A.

Accent chairman Daniel Landesberg said about 1,200 tickets had been picked up for the night.

"Students can so easily relate to the message he raises," said Landesberg, a 21-year-old UF telecommunication senior.

In his discussion, Common spoke about how he stayed positive after not winning a Grammy one year or obtaining an acting role in a movie.

Alexis Booker, a 19-year-old UF behav-

ioral and cognitive neuroscience freshman, said Common's speech inspired her.

"I learned that struggle is an important part to success," she said. "Not everything is going to be positive."

Common also emphasized the influence his faith has had on his life.

"The most important things we have in our lives are our creator and our families," he said.

Casey Burns, a 22-year-old UF psychology senior, said he likes Common for his overall image.

"He's pretty socially conscious, which is the main reason he reaches to such a wide variety of demographics," Burns said. "In the same manner, he's a bit controversial, which is exciting."

Common performed three songs, including his hit "The People" and a track from his new album. Common said his 10th studio album, "Nobody Smiling," reflected upon the violence in Chicago.

Jordan Thompson, a 18-year-old UF microbiology and cell science freshman, said Common's message was uplifting.

"He showed me that no matter what you go through, it's important to persevere," he said.



Matthew Martyr / Alligator Staff

Rapper, actor and writer Common spoke and performed for UF students Thursday evening at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The event was put on by Accent Speaker's Bureau and co-sponsored by Black History Month.

Flappy Bird creator, players all tapped out

JULIANNE HUHN

Alligator Contributing Writer

Flappy Bird has flown its last race.

The game app that blew up in the last few months is no longer available for download after the founder decided the game became too addictive for players.



F. Bird

Marko Suvajdzic, assistant professor of digital arts and sciences, said the game's impact on society could come from its simplicity.

To play, users tap the screen to

keep a bird from hitting green pipes.

"A lot of games today have that attitude of, 'keep going and going,'" he said. "It seems endless, but it's actually self-generating."

Suvajdzic also said he believes the

founder's decision to pull the game could be a marketing stunt to make users want it more.

Savannah Gribbins, an 18-year-old UF telecommunication freshman, said she found it hard to put the game down after she downloaded it about a week ago.

"It's really, really frustrating, and it's really hard," Gribbins said. "It's so hard and addictive because it's over really quickly. Your little flappy bird dies, and you're immediately like, 'Oh no, I can do better.'"

UF microbiology junior Kelsey O'Brien said she would put masking tape over the top part of her phone so she couldn't be intimidated by her score.

But the 21-year-old earned a higher score than most: 135.

"I would play it nonstop," she said.

GatorWell coaches Gators to foster healthy relationships

► VALENTINE'S DAY SHOULD BE A CELEBRATION OF ALL KINDS OF LOVE, A UF EXPERT SAID.

LOURIANNE APOLLON

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's GatorWell Health Promotion Services wants students to spread the love to everyone this Valentine's Day.

GatorWell is running a two-week promotion called "Model Healthy Relationships" that focuses on core components of healthy interactions, said Samantha Evans, a health promotion specialist at GatorWell.

Students working in the GatorWell huts are talking about the message on campus and handing out items to spread the message.

"Love comes in lots of different forms, and it's not just through people that you may be sex-

ually active with," Evans said. "When it comes to Valentine's Day and healthy relationships in general, it's important to know that connectedness with others is an essential part of overall health and wellbeing."

Valentine's Day is a day for all kinds of love and should be a day to appreciate all relationships, Evans said.

"We are trying to look beyond just those relationships where you might have sex with someone," she said.

She said the message encourages students to not get caught up on the word "relationship."

Jaclyn Gutierrez, a 20-year-old UF marketing sophomore, said she loves the idea of GatorWell's message. Gutierrez said she grew up thinking of Valentine's Day as a day for showing all kinds of love.

"It's a great excuse to remind your friends that you love them," she said.

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CAMPUS

UF grad student spreads composting to architecture school

ALEXIA FERNANDEZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

Compost recycling may be spreading across campus, and UF's College of Design, Construction and Planning is the first stop.

A UF landscape architecture graduate student introduced a food waste collection bin at the college and has started a new trend among her peers.

Sara Kovachich, 23, said that every week when she goes to pick the bin up, it's full.

"Students and faculty have donated their scraps of food. It's been a lot more than I thought," she said.

Kovachich said recycling and compost-

ing food has become a way of life since she joined the Student Compost Cooperative, a UF organization trying to change the way people recycle their food.

"I love to garden. I don't own a car. In a way, this is kind of like the next step," she said. "It's a simple thing. It can go a long way."

Cooperative director Ann Wilkie created the organization three years ago after seeing growing interest from students.

"The SCC was my magnificent obsession," she said. "I thought the best way to learn about these things is by doing."

Wilkie set up the cooperative at the UF Energy Research and Education Park, where

more than 10 compost bins are located.

Students, faculty and residents of Gainesville can bring their leftover scraps to the park any time.

"I thought the best way to learn about these things is by doing."

Ann Wilkie

cooperative director

Alec Spaulding, the coordinator of the organization, said the organization's long-term goal is to establish collection bins across campus, similar to the recycling bins found for plastic bottles and paper.

"The biggest restriction right now is

funding," said Spaulding, a 22-year-old UF family, youth and community sciences senior. "I think we're going to see this happening everywhere within the next five years, especially in the dining halls."

A major organization on campus has already followed the initiative of the compost cooperative.

UF's Office of Sustainability is using the cooperative's resources by recycling leftover food from meetings, Wilkie said. The organization also works with Gainesville Compost.

The cooperative plans to continue fostering new interest in recycling food scraps and helping the area's conservation efforts.

Brewer started after SFC class 20 years ago

BREW,
from page 1

said Brandon Nappy, marketing manager at Swamp Head Brewery.

He said First Magnitude will be well received, even by the competition.

"Our whole industry is very friendly. We're all about fostering the love for craft beer," Nappy said. "It will now be the three musketeers. It'll be Tall Paul's, Swamp Head Brewery, and First Magnitude."

The name of the business is inspired by Florida's first-magnitude springs, which pump water at more than 100 feet per cubic second. Denny said North Central Florida has more first-magnitude springs than anywhere else in the world.

"I love all the unique things

about Gainesville," said Denny, who said he hopes to model his company after thriving, distinctive local businesses like Satchel's Pizza.

It's as much an art and a culture as it is a beer, Nappy said. It's about a handmade, local product that both the brewers and the customers enjoy.

A hiker, biker and avid music lover, Denny said he hopes to target customers who want to relax after a long day outdoors.

Director of the UF Honors Program Kevin Knudson worked with Denny for five years. He said he hopes to see his former co-worker's business thrive.

"We miss him," said Knudson, who plans to delegate Denny's roles among himself and two other honors advisers. "But I'm also really happy for him."



Nicole Price / Alligator

Extreme Exercise

Christian DeVault, a 19-year-old pharmacy sophomore, did not let the 41-degree weather stop him from practicing parkour Thursday on Turlington Plaza. He says the sport is fun and an easy way to get around.

Helium shortage hit Gainesville

VALENTINE,
from page 1

will be a good one.

"Everyone wants to show their appreciation for their significant other," she said. "And all women love flowers."

◆◆◆

Stores may come up short for those looking to buy balloons for their lovers.

A current chemical shortage has rendered helium harder-to-get.

The gas is a nonrenewable resource, said Greg Labbe, director of a UF helium recycling facility. He said the shortage is caused by simple economics: The demand outweighs the supply.

"Helium is a very important scientific, medical and industrial element," he said.

Local businesses are feeling impacts of the shortage.

Julie Joines, assistant manager of the Dollar Tree, 1335 NW 23rd Ave., said her store didn't receive helium for three weeks in a row.

"It definitely affects us," she said.

Students who wanted to purchase balloons for their significant others noticed the lack of helium as well.

When Brianna Bielski, a 20-year-old UF biology sophomore, went into The Party Store in Butler Plaza to buy her boyfriend balloons for Valentine's Day, she couldn't.

◆◆◆

Many would say Valentine's Day would be incomplete without a bottle of red wine or vintage chardonnay.

Local liquor stores have recognized the importance of the staple during the holiday and compensated for demand.

Rene Owens, a sales clerk at the ABC Fine Wine & Spirits,

318 NW 13th St., said Valentine's Day brings in college students — mainly men — to buy bottles of red wine for romantic dinners.

"Wine complements the meal way more than hard liquor," Owens said.

Other stores have noticed a similar trend.

Jigga Patel, an employee at Gator Liquor at 1203 SW 16th Ave., said Valentine's Day causes a significant increase in sales for wine and a few other drinks.

"Some people also like Baisley's and other — you know — girly drinks," he added.

Jose Mantilla, a 21-year-old UF biology junior, said he understands why people would buy drinks at a liquor store and avoid going out to celebrate Valentine's Day.

"A lot of girls think that going out to dinner is too mainstream," Mantilla said.

Some high school seniors delay logging on to find out

ADMISSION, from page 1

Seniors see it differently.

"It's kinda weird because it's sort of like a happy day, and it could be a big bummer if you don't get in," Ethan Taylor, an 18-year-old Wesley Chapel High School senior, said.

But he said it also makes him glad he's single. He can just focus on logging on to UF's site.

Nick Rogner, a 17-year-old senior at Bishop Moore Catholic High School, said UF releasing its decisions on Valentine's Day "gives single people something to look forward to."

But truthfully, it doesn't matter that it's Valentine's Day, he said. Everybody will be happy if they get in and sad if they don't, no matter the date.

Some students are less casual about

the choice of date. Amber Paez, a 19-year-old UF English freshman, and her boyfriend Erik Reichert, a 17-year-old G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School senior, said they hate it.

Paez said the 6 p.m. release time clashes with Valentine's Day dinner plans, which takes away the enjoyment of the night.

"I'm going to be just as nervous as him," she said.

Reichert, who already refers to himself as a Gator, said if he gets accepted, the couple will share a few dinners and watch Game of Thrones together — all through video chatting.

His possible acceptance means the couple could spend their next Valentine's Day together in person.

"We can actually have a date that doesn't require FaceTime," Paez said.

CAMPUS

UF organizations hope to give goats to Ugandan orphans

JESSICA PEREDA

Alligator Contributing Writer

Goats big or goats home.

The UF chapter of Nourish International, a nonprofit organization focused on reducing global poverty, will collaborate with the Uganda Rural Fund this summer to donate goats to Ugandan orphans at the Hope Academy.

Catie Faughnan, a 20-year-old UF economics and political science junior and a co-president of UF Nourish International, said the goal is to buy as many goats as possible with the fundraiser money.

"A goat is really a sustainable investment not only for feeding your family but selling its products," she said, "and also goats have generally long lives."

The program focuses on orphans due to the

growing phenomenon of "child-headed families" in which both parents have died, and the oldest child takes responsibility of the household, according to the organization's site.

The chapter is selling roses for Valentine's Day as part of a fundraising competition hosted by the national office to gain funds for their project.

UF's chapter of Nourish International is ranked as the No. 1 fundraiser in the national

competition out of 28 participating groups, bringing them closer to the goats.

Alexis Tavarez, a 19-year-old UF health science sophomore and co-president of the UF chapter, said she believes the small size of the organization allows students to have a unique service experience.

"Nourish International really gets under your skin because you work with them every single day," she said.

'Vagina Monologues' at Hipp to fund domestic violence prevention

► THE MONOLOGUES ARE MEANT TO EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN.

KELLY VOLLMER

Alligator Contributing Writer

This weekend more than 15 actresses will give staged monologues all about one topic: their vaginas.

"The Vagina Monologues," returning to the Hippodrome State Theatre, raises money to end violence against women.

"It was eye-opening, especially in those formative years. It gets you to start thinking."

Emily Snider
co-director

Last year, the show sold out the Hippodrome Cinema all three days. This year, the show is moving to the Hippodrome's main stage to accommodate a larger audience.

Valentine's Day showings of "The Vagina Monologues" are already sold out, but shows on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. and on Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. are each selling tickets for \$25.

Emily Snider saw the show in Gainesville with her mother when she was 17, before she became co-director of the play.

"I remember feeling a little embarrassed to be watching some parts of it," she said. But, in retrospect, "It was eye-opening, especially in those formative years. It gets you to start thinking."

She said the monologues are meant to equally educate and entertain.

Ian Cavitt, a 19-year-old UF computer science sophomore, said the boundaries the monologues are pushing are a good thing.

STATE

Miami hotels help sick guests

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Some Miami hotels are teaming up with a program to offer out-of-town guests who are feeling under the weather a convenient way to connect with a doctor.

If travelers are suffering from anything from an earache to the flu, they can contact the hotel concierge or front desk to coordinate a new medical technology platform.

SKYdoc enables a doctor to receive vitals, such as blood pressure, pulse and EKG reads for non-life-threatening illnesses.

The technology allows a doctor to communicate in a way that's similar to Skype one-on-one with their patients 24 hours a day.

The service will be available in all

of the nearly 200 South Florida hotels of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association.

Creator Dr. Ramsey Saffouri is launching the program in South Florida ahead of a worldwide release.

Saffouri demonstrated the broad, multilingual medical technology, which he said also has wide diagnostic capabilities, at a press conference at the iconic Delano Hotel on Wednesday.

SKYdoc was developed in South Florida with the cooperation of its tourism partners.

"We're extremely proud not only that SKYdoc was created here, but that it will be unveiled here and introduced in our beautiful and significant tourism destination," said Wendy Kallergis, president of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association.



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Political Speech

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks Thursday at Pugh Hall about running for office. The event was put on by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service.

Apply now for Student Advisory Boards

Interested in serving as a student member on one of the following boards: Reitz Union Board of Managers, Recreational Sports Board of Directors, or O'Connell Center Advisory Board? Applications are now available. Serve, gain valuable leadership experience, and help make decisions that benefit all students at UF. 2014-2015 Student Advisory Board Applications can be downloaded from <http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/students/committees>. You must prepare a separate application for each board you wish to apply for.

Turn in hard copy applications (and a typed resume) to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs in 155 Tigert Hall by Wednesday, February 26th at 4 pm. If you have questions, please see the application for more details or email Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa at jmastro@ufl.edu.

Terms for each student advisory board are an entire school year (Fall 2014 to Spring 2015). Qualifications include being a full-time UF student (12 hours undergraduate, 9 hours graduate), a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA, and not on Conduct Probation.

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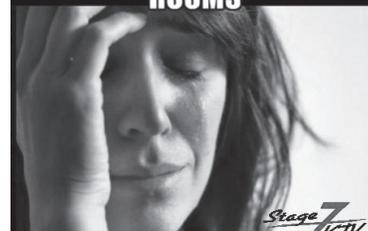
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Opinions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014
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Editorial

Today, gift your boo things they'll truly cherish during these cold times: wool socks and a tankard of brandy.

On the serious, for all you lovebirds out and about today celebrating the fleeting connection you've made in a vast and unfeeling universe, hats off to you — we're not bitter or anything. Just kidding; enjoy the holiday, you crazy kids. To all you single folks, don't despair: All the chocolate goes on sale tomorrow, and at least you have more Olympic coverage to look forward to. Revel in the array of figure-skating butts, skiing butts and speed-skating butts as they fly past on your TV screen encased in skin-tight athletic wear. It's the reason for the season.

Here it is, Valentines: Your love-is-in-the-air-no-wait-that's-just-freezing-rain edition of...

Darts & Laurels

Two new pieces of legislation could lift a serious burden from student veterans: The House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass the GI Tuition Fairness Act, which would require all public universities to offer in-state tuition to veterans. Florida schools do not waive out-of-state fees for veteran students, so another bill currently making its rounds in the Florida State Senate would change that. So this week, we're handing off a step-in-the-right-direction **LAUREL** to **Senate Bill 84**, which, if signed into law, would ensure out-of-state student veterans can get affordable rates for a UF education.

This week, Voldemort stand-in and Florida Gov. Rick Scott angered many when the state legislature excluded educational facilities from its list of possible early-voting locations — which, for us, means the Reitz Union won't become an early-voting location any time soon.

According to Alligator coverage from earlier this week, "The statute allows early voting to occur in government-owned community centers," (Sen. Bill) Nelson said. "The last time I checked, the university is part of the public sector, which is a community facility that is not just used by students."

The exclusion seems to be a calculated measure to suppress student voting; in the 2012 presidential elections, young voters overwhelmingly preferred Barack Obama to Mitt Romney. This week, we're tossing a we-want-to-vote-early-and-buy-Starbucks-in-the-same-building **DART** to the **Florida Legislature**.

We reported Wednesday that the City of Gainesville is modifying intersections and speed limits around town to promote biker safety. Although the cost of the citywide accommodations for bike riders was pretty hefty — about \$29,000 — we agree that cyclist safety is paramount for the many UF students, faculty and Gainesville residents who choose to cut costs and carbon emissions. An I-want-to-ride-my-bicycle-bicycle-bicycle-bicycle **LAUREL** goes to the **Gainesville Public Works department** this week.

Finally, a don't-try-to-be-a-hero **DART** to all the **sickly students and coughing co-workers** who came to school/work anyway despite having colds. Seriously, everyone and his or her mother is sick in Gainesville right now — the Alligator newsroom was basically a hospital ward this week. Listen to your bodies and stay home when you're feeling sniffly, guys.

OK, the mom rant is over.

Happy Valentine's Day, Gators!

Reader response

Today's question: Do you remember the day you got into UF?

Thursday's question: Do you hate Valentine's Day?

39% YES
61% NO
59 TOTAL VOTES

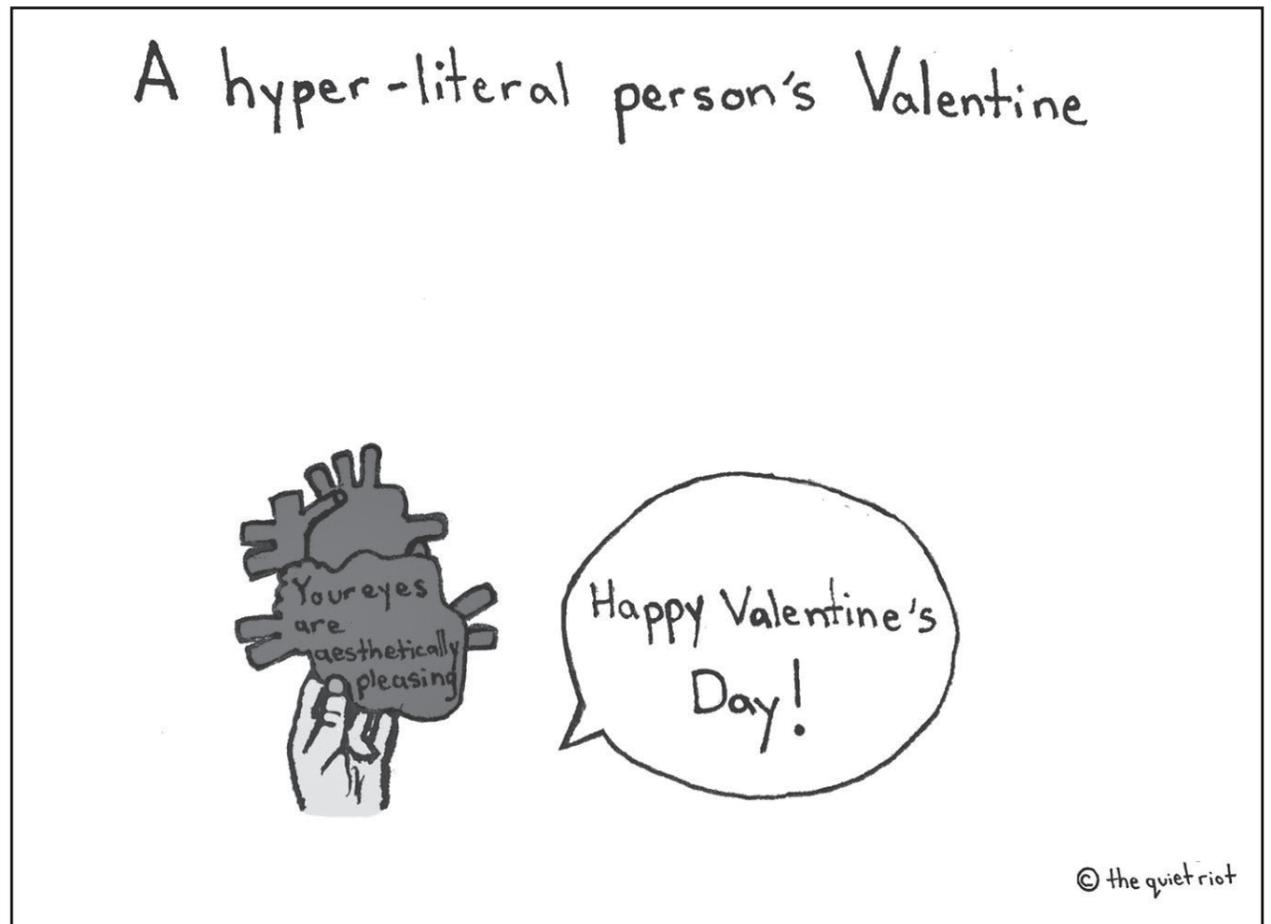
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Column

A nonconformist guide to loving Feb. 14

Valentine's Day gets a bad rap.

If you're in love, you've had your day planned for weeks, months even. If you're single, you must be a bitter, depressed, crazy cat lady. If you're seeing someone casually, you're crossing the clingy line if you to want to spend time with him or her today.

There are a few misconceptions about Valentine's Day, and although any of the aforementioned hypotheticals are possible and sometimes true, there's no reason everyone can't have an enjoyable day.

Like any holiday, this commercialized day in February comes with connotations and expectations about what we should focus on.

But regardless of how you celebrate — or don't — the best way to enjoy your day is just to tell yourself you will.

From the time we were in grade school, we've been taught that Feb. 14 is the day to express love and affection for those we care about.

Then, all you had to worry about was making sure the printed card stock your parents bought for you to hand out expressed the right "je ne sais quoi" by way of a Count Dracula sucking a full IV and saying "You're my type," or Sesame Street's Oscar the Grouch exclaiming, "I <3 Trash!"

As you got older, the focus shifted from being nice to your classmates to expressing your undying devotion for someone by dropping serious cash on bouquets of roses or worrying about what corset-and-garter-belt combo would best suit the post-romantic-five-course-dinner mood.

And as social beings in a consumerist society, it's hard to go completely against the lovey-dovey mush we're fed by the general public and the media.

Americans are predicted to spend \$37 billion in winning, dining and gifting in celebration of love this year, according to American Express.



Marjorie Nunez
opinions@alligator.org

I'll be the first to say it: I love spending money. I love flowers. I love lingerie, and I love fancy dinners.

I just don't see the need to cram all the fun into the one day — then again, I've never been a conformist.

On days where everyone is expected to be go all out, it's the small things that impress me. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to be grateful for those who always notice the color of your nails or the person who opens the door for you, even when it's raining and neither of you have an umbrella.

It can also be the perfect time to share your personal pizza with Netflix and thank the people who answer your frantic texts about the aggressive creep on Tinder.

But you shouldn't compare your Valentine's Day ideals to mine. Don't compare them to anyone's.

Maybe you feel great in lingerie regardless of how much you've eaten. Maybe a movie and wine for two has always worked for you, and maybe you're expecting your guy to know you want to be proposed to on Valentines Day, but you don't want to have to tell him.

Just kidding, hopefully that's only one crazy girl on Lulu.

Some years, Valentine's Day calls for silly cards and chocolates. Some years it calls for time alone with your cat — and remember, guys can be cat ladies, too.

What if the only thing you'll find enjoyment in today is pasting your ex's face to the bullseye of a darts board? That's OK. It's America, and I'm sure you can find a cool bar that will encourage you, maybe even reward you, for doing just that.

Marjorie Nunez is a UF journalism senior. Her columns appear on Fridays.

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

Letters to the Editor

The dangers of a one-party university

Following a trend that has become the standard for most major schools, Florida has become a one-party university. Swamp Party dominates UF politics in every way, from Senate to the Executive ticket, running practically unopposed this Spring. While this is being celebrated by Swamp as a unifying movement in the Student Body, there are many dangers that come with such a powerful party.

When one party is so heavily the majority, we run the risk of becoming a "machine-like" government to the likes of the Univer-

sity of Alabama. Opposition can be silenced, platforms can be skewed, legislation can be passed at a whim. When one party is this powerful, we lack necessary checks and balances. Without opposition, who is there to say, "stop"?

I vote for Swamp Party candidates. I am in full support of their Spring platform, but I also appreciate valid opposition. How can we have the necessary debates our university needs to have when we're arguing with ourselves?

Chris Lynch
UF business freshman

Take back UF, vote Students Party

Each student will spend approximately \$2,082 in fees over his or her four years here funding Student Government.

Yet most of us are not being adequately represented, and our voices are not being heard on how that money should be spent.

Wasteful programs run abound in the budget every year, and we need a strong opposition to keep the majority party in check. Students Party candidates want to fairly represent you, the student. They are not beholden to any organization and its

interests.

As senators, they will vote objectively on bills being considered, not how they're told.

My fellow students, it is time we take our campus back.

Each vote will make a difference in this crucial election, one that may be our last chance to prevent total one-party domination.

I ask you to vote Students Party, for the sake of our school.

Natalia Perez Santos
UF political science freshman

Column

SG write-in campaign must succeed to challenge system

Last week, I wrote about the Taco Libre Party, an offshoot of the Students Party whose goal is to bring a Taco Bell to UF's campus. Upon closer inspection, though, it was clear that the Taco Libre party is the creation of frustrated opposition members trying to generate interest in Student Government in the shadow of the domineering Swamp Party.

Taco Libre was the only party challenging Swamp for executive seats in the upcoming elections. The Students Party isn't running any executive candidates, citing a strategy of focusing on seats it knows it can win. Playing it safe seems smart, but it also sounds like the Students Party won't last for more than a few elections. The grim situation, then, perfectly summed up the political situation at UF: The only party challenging the political establishment was literally a taco party.

I say "was" because earlier this week, the Supervisor of Elections said the Taco Libre vice presidential candidate "failed to qualify."

For some reason, the vice president candidate's faulty paperwork also disqualifies the party's presidential candidate, leaving only treasurer-hopeful Mica Montero. Officially, then, the only names that will appear on the ballot for president and vice president will be Swamp Party candidates, running unopposed.

Leaders in the Taco Libre party said they will pursue a write-in campaign. The hopes of the Taco Libre party, and the entire indie bloc as a whole, are not totally dead yet. But this most recent news makes it even more likely that we're headed for a Student Government entirely dominated by a single party.

Luckily, the Swamp Party has a solid platform and policies that very well may make UF an even better place to live and work. But the party, like its previous incarnations, is the political wing of a corrupt and nepotistic system that relies on patronage and coercion to stay in power.

I sincerely wish that I am what that statement makes me seem, paranoid to the point of sickness, huddled in a dark room with tin foil on my head. The depressing fact is that I'm not — it's just that I've spent more than twenty minutes reading about corruption in SG.

The time has come for La Revolución.

One of two things must happen if the Student Body wants to avoid a single-party system. A single party system would



Alec Carver
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create a situation where the same people are in charge of everything and get to make all the decisions, with no dissenting voices to speak of. No dissenting voices means no debate, no discussion and no change.

If you find that situation appealing, by all means, vote

Swamp.

If you don't, the easiest way to avoid it is for the write-in campaign to succeed. If it does, it's conceivable that the Taco Libre candidates in the executive branch and their colleagues in the Senate will join forces with whomever gets elected from the Students Party. After all, Taco Libre was founded by former Students Party members, and a political victory would probably encourage them to reunite. Such a coalition would guarantee a modest independent voice in Student Government.

If the write-ins do succeed, next year we may have a shiny new Taco Bell and a Student Government that represents the will of the Student Body.

Chances of a successful write-in campaign, though, are very slim. It's far more likely the auspices of death looming over this incarnation of the indie bloc will come true. Right now it's a wounded animal, barely able to lift a finger against the massive might and influence of the majority. Calling this a David-and-Goliath isn't fair because it implies there is a serious possibility that the opposition won't get utterly decimated in this election.

In the likely event that Swamp wins all executive and most of the Senate seats, this generation of the opposition will have fought its last battle.

But even if this election is a total victory for the majority, there is a chance that the opposition may continue to flourish. The parties that currently compose it will die — sure. But is that actually such a bad thing?

If the outcome of this election ends up as one-sided as it looks, the simple result will be that these parties failed. Of course the playing field was never level, but that's precisely what an opposition party in UF's political landscape needs to do: level the playing field. If an opposition party is ever going to succeed, much less compete in this political climate, it must be organized, active and effective.

But, most importantly, it needs to stop playing the underdog game the majority has created.

Alec Carver is a UF journalism freshman. His columns appear on Fridays.

Column

Reaction to Coke ad reveals conservative intolerance

Two weeks ago, MSNBC president Phil Griffin apologized to Reince Priebus, head of the Republican National Committee, for a tweet sent out by the network's official Twitter account.

The offending tweet read: "Maybe the rightwing will hate it, but everyone else will go awww: the adorable new #Cheerios ad w/ biracial family."

The tweet referred to a recent Cheerios television commercial featuring a young biracial child, her white mother and her black father.

Prominent Republicans around the country reacted swiftly to the tweet, expressing outrage that MSNBC would accuse them of racism or intolerance. MSNBC swiftly and repeatedly apologized for the tweet, calling it "offensive."

Despite Republican outrage about MSNBC's tweet, the reaction of conservatives nationwide to another commercial just a few days later calls into question their assertion of complete racial tolerance.

During the Super Bowl, Coca-Cola aired a now-infamous ad depicting Americans of several different racial and ethnic backgrounds singing sections of "America the Beautiful" in their respective native languages.

According to a statement from Coca-Cola, the ad was intended to "provide a snapshot of the real lives of Americans representing diverse ethnicities, religions, races and families, all found in the United States."

In response to this fairly innocuous celebration of America's diversity, many notable conservatives expressed outrage at the idea of a traditional American song sung in any language besides English.

Former Rep. Allen West (R-Fla.) called the ad "disturbing" in a Facebook post and said the commercial's celebration of multiculturalism means that America is "on the road to perdition."

Popular right-wing news aggregator The Right Scoop claimed that "America has a culture of its own, primarily denoted by our official language, English."

America, of course, does not have an official language. However, conservatives in Congress have previously supported bills that would make English the official language of the United States

government.

Fox News pundit Todd Starnes tweeted his opinion that the meaning of the commercial is that Coca-Cola feels "America is beautiful because new immigrants don't learn to speak English." He also

called Coca-Cola "the official soft drink of illegals crossing the border."

Eric Bolling, another Fox News contributor and co-host of Fox's "The Five," claimed that the ad's use of "America the Beautiful" "ticked off a lot of Americans" who are "very, very patriotic about that song."

These comments by prominent conservative leaders are mean-spirited, vile and offensive to all those who celebrate and appreciate the diversity of America. They also prove the point MSNBC sought to make in its tweet about the Cheerios ad: Many right-wing conservatives are deeply intolerant of nonwhite, non-English speaking Americans.

The intolerance of conservative leaders toward America's nonwhite population has translated into a collapse of support for the Republican Party among racial minorities in the United States.

In the 2012 presidential election, 93 percent of blacks, 71 percent of Hispanics and 73 percent of Asians voted for President Barack Obama. Republican nominee Gov. Mitt Romney received 59 percent of the white vote, but that strong majority was no match for the president's diverse, multiracial coalition.

Recent studies suggest that the Republican Party's diversity problem is only getting worse. A 2013 Gallup survey found that non-Hispanic whites account for 89 percent of the Republican Party, with about 8 percent identifying as black or Hispanic. In contrast, 35 percent of Democrats identified as black or Hispanic.

The Republican Party and the American conservative movement will ultimately crumble without at least moderate levels of support from racial and ethnic minorities.

Rather than condemning these groups, conservatives should celebrate and reach out to them.

Diversity, not racial intolerance and hatred, is what truly makes America beautiful.

Elliot Levy is a UF political science and public relations junior. His columns usually appear on Wednesdays.



Elliot Levy
opinions@alligator.org

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1, 2, & 3BRs. Tile in LR, kitchen & bathrooms & bedrooms. Hardwood floors, cent A/C, ceiling fans, W/D hook-ups. Several locations, some walk to UF. Starting at \$450/mo. Must See! Call 352-215-7780 4-23-14-72-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee.
1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 2-28-14-45-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

WALK TO UF

Live in prestigious Jackson Square. 2 BR condos avail.
\$1300-\$1600 mo. 352-505-5049 6-16-14-74-2

8 BLOCKS TO UF

Spacious 2BR/1BA, island kitchen. Plenty of parking! Available Fall Term \$700 mo. 352-505-5049 6-19-14-74-2

BLOCKS TO CAMPUS

3, 4, 5 BR HOUSES Available August. Pet friendly. Call Carol at 359-3341 or website dalyproperties.com 3-10-14-27-2

AVAILABLE AUG 1ST 4BR/2BA very nice house, large BRs, large fenced backyard, beautiful trees, fireplace, deck, garage, W/D incl. 352-339-2342. \$1400/mo. 2606 NW 34th St. Pictures at gainesvillequalityrentalhouses.com 2-14-14-15-2

SPYGLASS

Individual Leases. Furniture pkgs. incl Washer/Dryer & FREE Hi-Speed internet. Rates start at \$429. Every unit an end unit. Mon-Fri 9-6 Sat. 10-5 701 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-373-6330 www.spyglassapts.com 4-23-14-55-2

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. 10-5 700 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-371-8009 www.lakewoodvillas.com 4-23-14-55-2

UPPER WESTSIDE/ NANTUCKET WALK

1 & 2 bdrm Luxury Apts. starting at \$850. Granite counters. FREE Hi-Speed Internet. Parking avail.
Walking distance to UF & Stadium. 408 NW 14th St. Now leasing for Fall 2014. For info. call 352-872-4644 www.upperwestsideuf.com 4-23-14-54-2

* BELLAPROPERTIES.NET *

We have Luxury apartments and Houses for Fall!! Call Eric today to Tour! 352-870-9453 or 352-335-5424 2-24-14-15-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

★★★ HOUSE 4BR/2BA ★★★

Avail 8/1. W/D, bike to UF. NO PETS. Lawn care. Drive by 3532 NW 7th Ave. See flyer. \$1200/mo. 373-1558 or 256-8370 2-19-14-5-2

★ 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 2-28-14-11-2

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.

LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER? NEED TO SUBLET YOUR ROOM? DON'T WAIT

PLACE YOUR SUBLEASE AD TODAY!

IT'S EASY...JUST GO TO

www.alligator.org/classified

2/2 just 3 blocks from campus (The Avenues) \$1,200/month, lease is thru July. February rent is paid, don't pay rent 'til March & keep my security deposit (\$1,129). Call Eric @ 352 213 1282 2-14-14-10-3

FURNISHED ONE BEDROOM/ONE BATH IN THE LANDINGS, LOWER THAN CURRENT RENT, QUIET & CLEAN, GREAT MANAGEMENT, CLOSE TO UF, FRIENDLY ROOMMATES, POOL/GYM/TENNIS COURT PLEASE CONTACT 305-905-4286 2-14-3-3

4 Roommates

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

4 Roommates

ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIED ADS

GET THE JOB DONE!

REACH MORE THAN 50,000 READERS EACH PUBLICATION DAY

LAKEFRONT HOUSE. 2 miles east of downtown. 3/2, nice kitchen, laundry, garage, 24' x 36' screened room. \$400 Quiet neighborhood. Call Dave 352-281-2200 2-26-14-26-4

Another Saturday night without a date? Read The Alligator.

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 4-23-72-5

Blue Ridge Mountain Getaway! 4.64 acres, only \$44,800. Beautifully wooded 4.64 acre estate with picturesque rolling mountain views. Ideally located at end of quiet country road with no traffic. Enjoy privacy along with peace & quiet. Build when you are ready. All underground utilities: water, electric, fiber optic cable. Excellent financing. Perfect for weekend mtn cabin or year-round residence. Call now 866-952-5303, x 146 2-14-15

Mobile Homes with acreage. Ready to move in. Seller Financing (subject to credit approval). Lots of room for the price, 3Br 2Ba. No renters. 850-308-6473 VMFHomes.com 2-14-15

SAY:
"I FOUND IT IN THE ALLIGATOR!"

How To Place A Classified Ad:

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

In Person:
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.

Corrections and Cancellations:

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

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. 4-23-14-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-23-14-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400 Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-23-14-72-6

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. 4-23-72-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$1800. Sacrifice \$700. Call 352-377-9846 4-23-72-6

6 Furnishings

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-23-14-72-6

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.

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS Network specialists We buy computers and laptops Working and Non-working 378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street 4-23-14-60-7

8 Electronics

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

Your roommate hasn't done the dishes in How long?! Find a better dishwasher in the Alligator Classifieds.

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 On-Line Auctions● are underway...bikes, computers, furniture, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: SURPLUS.UFL.EDU 392-0370 4-23-14-72-10

Guitars and Musical Instruments New, Used and Factory Refurbished Check Us Out Before You Buy or Sell!! Leonardo's Music, Micanopy, FL 352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com 4-23-14-72-10

Party Supplies: Complete line of Bar Supplies, glassware, Liquor Pours, Shakers, Professional Cooking Utensils. R.W. Beaty Co. 1120 N. Main St., Gainesville 352-448-3433 beatyequip@aol.com 4-23-14-72-10

HORSES & GOATS

FOR SALE Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-23-72-10

10 For Sale

BOOKS: First came physical changes, spread by recombinant DNA in viruses. Then came the memories. WONDERS AND TRAGEDIES, a science fiction novel, is by Alan Kovski. Available via Amazon.com 2-28-14-12-10

BOOKS: A wilderness may be prowled by creatures of the forest. Or it may be urban, highly cultured, and just as deadly. WILDERNESS, a science fiction novel, is by Alan Kovski. Available via Amazon.com 2-28-14-12-10

BOOKS: What will we become, years from now? Better or worse? Fools, victims, fortunate souls, survivors in dangerous times? REMEMBERING THE FUTURE: science fiction stories by Alan Kovski. Available via Amazon.com 2-28-14-12-10

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.

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds



4-23-14-72-11

★★★★NEW SCOOTERS 4 LESS★★★★ Great Scooters, Service & Prices! 118 NW 14th Ave, Ste D, 336-1271 Vespa, Genuine, GMW, & More! NS4L.com facebook.com/newscooters4less 4-23-14-72-11

★★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 4-23-14-72-11

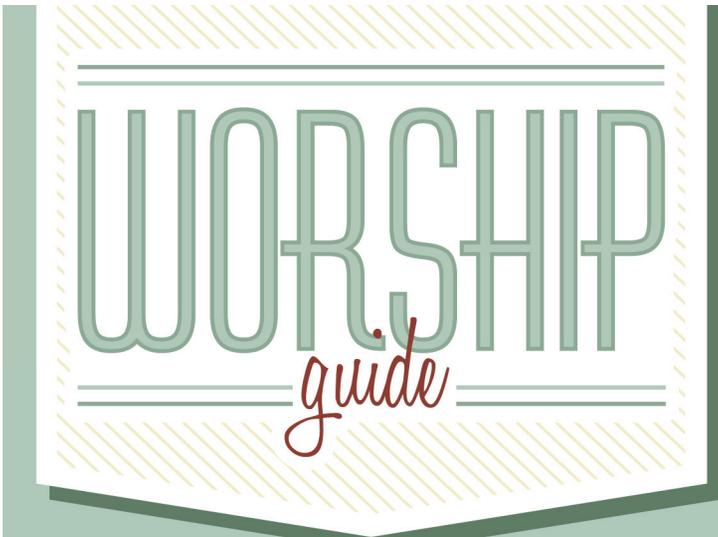
★★★★Road Rat Motors★★★★ Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads! New scooters starting at \$999. 1-2yr warranties with roadside assistance included. 376-6275 RoadRatMotors.com 4-23-14-72-11

Road Rat Motors offers FREE pickup service for any paid scooter repair. LOWEST labor rate, quickest turnaround in town! Will repair ANY brand scooter. Free estimates. 376-6275. RoadRatMotors.com 4-23-14-72-11

★★SCOOTER RENTALS★★ Rent for a day, week, month or semester. Now renting Buddy scooters too! 352-336-1271 www.gainesvillescooterrentals.com 4-23-14-72-11

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 4-23-14-72-11

Another Saturday night without a date? Read The Alligator.



BAPTIST
First Baptist Church
 Sunday: Worship 8:30 + 11:00
 Bible Study 9:30
 Wednesday: Dinner 5:30
 Bible Study + Activities 6:30
 14105 NW 39th Ave.
 3 miles West of I-75
 www.fbcgainesville.net

Monteocha Baptist Church
 Reformed & Evangelical
 Sunday: Worship 11am & 6pm
 9420 North County Road 225
 15 minutes from UF campus
 find out more on Facebook

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 IMAGINE a religion that embraces many different beliefs... including yours.
 Join us on Sunday at 11AM
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 4225 NW 34th Street
 Information: 371-1669 or uufg.org

JEWISH
Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center
 Your home away from home
 Friday: Night Live!
 Services & Shabbat Dinner.
 7:30pm Spring/Fall,
 8:30pm Summer
 352-336-5877
 2021 NW 5th Ave
 (5 blocks north of the stadium)
 www.JewishGator.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
University City Church of Christ
 Gators for Christ campus ministry college group meets at University City church on Sundays at 9am and Wednesdays at 7pm - practical application from God's word, plus service projects, large group events, free meals, and much more...
 (directions and events calendar at www.gatorsforchrist.org)
 For rides please call: 352-514-8261

JEWISH
UF Hillel
 Friday: Night 7:30 pm
 Services & Dinner
 Reform Conservative Orthodox
 Across from The Stadium
 www.ufhillel.org

CATHOLIC
St. Augustine Church
 Mass Times:
 Sat. 5:30 pm
 Sun: 9am, 11:30, 1:30
 (Spanish) 5:30pm, 7:30pm
 Daily: M-F Noon, 5:30pm
 Confession: M-F 4:30 pm-5:20pm
 www.catholicgators.org

METHODIST
Trinity United Methodist Church
 New Modern Worship - 11am
 Contemporary - Wed at 6:35pm
 Coffee Talk for college age + young adults on Sundays at noon
 Additional services:
 Sundays at 8:15, 9:40 + 11am

Gator Wesley Center United Methodist Campus Min.
 www.gatorwesley.com
 Worship- Sundays @ 11am
 Free Lunch @ 12:15pm
 Bible Study-Wednesday @ 7pm
 1350 W. University Ave.

LUTHERAN
Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
 1700 NW 34th St.
 Gainesville, FL 32653
 Phone: 352-376-9940
 Worship: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
 You are always welcome!

EPISCOPAL
Chapel of the Incarnation
 The EpiscoGators Welcome You!
 Communion: 5:30pm Sun. followed by a free home cooked meal for students 1552 W University Ave across from Library West.

PRESBYTERIAN
First Presbyterian Church
 Trajectory
 College Bible Study
 Wednesday 7:30 at Firsterian Church Gainesville
 College Caf e
 Free Food After 10:50am Worship
 106 SW 3rd St.
 Contact Scott Stuart college@lstpc.org

the independent florida
alligator
 For information on advertising in the Worship Guide, contact Kristin Mumma.
 Alligator Advertising
352.376.4482

MOST WANTED

Murrell Rutledge
 Black Male
 (DOB 10/02/73); 5'11",
 165 lbs, Black Hair,
 Brown Eyes

Wanted for:
 Violation of Probation
 for Possession of
 Marijuana

ALACHUA COUNTY
CRIME STOPPERS
 Call (352) 372-STOP

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

★★★ WWW.SWAMPCYCLES.COM ★★★
 Scooters & Motorcycles ● Sales & Service
 Quality, Experienced, Certified Technicians.
 Close to Campus, Lowest Prices.
 633 NW 13th St. 352-373-8823
 4-23-72-11

ccmotorcyclctraining.com
 2 days \$150 weekdays or weekends G-ville/
 Starke 352-331-0131 train on motorcycles or
 scooters State certified Co & Trainers 3-14-
 14-20-11

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
 4-23-72-12

●●● We Buy Junk Cars ●●●
 ●Trucks, Vans - Titled only●
 Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3191
 4-23-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
 \$0 DOWN!!!
 FILE YOUR TAXES HERE
 AND DRIVE HOME TODAY
 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
 ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN
 NO CREDIT CHECK!!
 NO EMPLOYMENT CHECK
 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES
 DOWNPAYMENT DEFERRED
 FILE YOUR TAXES HERE
 AND DRIVE HOME TODAY
 352-375-9090 4-23-72-12

SUNRISE AUTO RENTALS
 ALL VEHICLES 2014
 3630 N. MAIN ST.
www.carrentalsunrise.com
 352-375-9090 4-23-72-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES
 DOWN PAYMENT DEFERRED
 NO CREDIT CHECKS!!!
 NO EMPLOYMENT CHECK
 352-375-9090 4-23-72-12

96 OLDS ACHIEVA \$1500
 95 FORD EXPLORER \$1500
 94 CHEVY CAPRICE \$1500
 93 NISSAN PATHFINDER \$1500
 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

93 CADILLAC SLS \$1999
 92 TOYOTA CAMRY \$1999
 91 CHEVY CAPRICE \$1900
 00 BLAZER \$1999
 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
 ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
 FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP
 NO TITLE NEEDED. Call Steve 352-771-6191
 4-23-14-72-12

Exclusive Deal For University of
 Florida Students - Save \$572* on
 Auto Insurance Instantly! Visit:
DiscountCarInsuranceForStudents.com &
 enter promo-code: ufl572 2-18-14-5-12

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 cau-
 tion and investigate the sincerity of the adver-
 tiser before giving out personal information
 or arranging meetings or investing money.

13 Wanted

GOLD ★ GEMS ★ ETC
 Free Appraisals ★ Top Cash or Trade
 40 years in Business
 OZZIE 352-318-4009
 4-23-72-13

UF GRAD PAYS MORE
 for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds,
 guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you
 see!! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090
 4-23-72-13

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
 — transitions to end homelessness

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 Breal
 at (352) 378-9079 or
sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfooxmail.com
To make a donation by mail,
 please send checks payable to
 St. Francis House
 P.O. Box 12491
 Gainesville, FL 32604

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
 ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
 FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP
 NO TITLE NEEDED CALL 352-771-6191
 4-23-14-72-13

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
 2-21-14-72-13



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PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 207

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add
 points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-
 point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words
 are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**
For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to
www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.
 02-14

13 Wanted

Work on NewGov.us! Must be interested
 in web or UX design, programming, history
 and/or politics. Contact eric@buygood.us
 2-24-14-7-13

14 Help 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 cau-
 tion and investigate the sincerity of the adver-
 tiser before giving out personal information
 or arranging meetings or investing money.

**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.

the independent florida
alligator

RETAIL ADVERTISING MANAGER
FULL TIME POSTION
 Sales driven person to train student sales
 staff in outside newspaper advertising sales,
 emphasis on developing new business.
 Motivator needed who works well with a
 constantly changing staff.
 Duties include training university students
 in outside newspaper sales,
 layout and copy writing. Must work well
 within and meet daily deadlines.
 Good organizational skills a must.
 Newspaper ad sales background an advantage.
 Modest salary, good benefits and
 excellent working environment.
 With resume, send cover letter that must
 include salary requirements, to:
 General Manager, The Independent Florida
 Alligator, P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL
 32604 or email to tcarey@alligator.org.
 No phone calls please. EOE

14 Help Wanted

Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/
 Sales and computer science needed for
 various positions. Flexible schedules and
 competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at
www.gleim.com/employment 4-23-14-
 72-14

SBSG is a financial transcription company
 offering part-time work.
 - Create your own schedule
 - Competitive Production-Based Pay
 - Close to campus!
 - Must be able to touch-type 65wpm
 Apply Online: www.sbsgrp.com 12-3-14-
 151-14

DOMINO'S HIRING
 Delivery Experts & Assistant Managers &
 Future Managers. Drivers earn between \$14-
 \$17 per hour. GMs earn 40K-50K+. Apply at
gatordominos.com 4-23-14-70-14

Do you PARTY?
 Get paid to party with your friends!
 Become a Brand Ambassador with SquadUP
 and get paid to go to parties, by using
www.squadup.com! 2-14-14-25-14

BEST PART-TIME JOB IN GATOR NATION
3 Miles from Campus
\$11.25/ Hr to Start | \$12-\$15 After Training
Flexible Schedule | Ideal for Students
Call Today (352) 264- 0044 2-20-13-28-
 14

14 Help Wanted

Summer Jobs
 · \$2400 for 8 weeks
 · Co-ed camp
 · Room and Board included
 Get Paid to Play!
 The Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) needs
 male and female camp counselors ages 18
 and up. FEYC is an over-night camp located
 in Umatilla, FL. The camp runs June 9th –
 August 2nd. Please contact Krysl Ragland at
 352 455-4267 or Krysl@feyc.org. 4-23-14-
 64-14

Looking for Emergency Alarm Operators.
 Similar to 911 dispatching. Ability to work fast
 paced. This is an as needed position. Clean
 background check. Inquire to ddamiano@cpss.net
 2-28-14-30-14

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST: Full or flex-
 ible part-time. Responsible for phone,
 scheduling, registering, verifying insurance
 and coordinating office activities. Resume
afn22025@bellsouth.net 2-17-15-14

F/T receptionist needed in busy law office.
 Communication, attention to detail, and mul-
 ti-tasking skills a must. Previous experience
 and/or Spanish speaking a plus.
 Please send resume to
legalhumanresources@yahoo.com 2-17-
 14-15-14

OFFICE ASSISTANT
 \$8/hr, 15+ hrs/week, flexible schedule.
 Typing skills, Word/Excel, some hardware
 knowledge a plus. Resume to officegnv@gmail.com
 gmail.com. Indicate available days & hours.
 2-14-14-10-14

Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way
 that each row across, each column down and
 each small 9-box square contains all of the
 numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Wilbekin's offense keeping pace with strong defense

JONATHAN CZUPRYN

Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

Billy Donovan knows Scottie Wilbekin had a great game Tuesday against Tennessee.

He knows his point guard has had a really good senior campaign so far.

But in this what-can-you-do-for-me-now league, Donovan wants to know how Wilbekin can improve even more before No. 3 Florida's (22-2, 11-0 Southeastern Conference) road matchup with Kentucky (19-5, 9-2 SEC) on Saturday at 9 p.m.

"This game is over," Donovan said after defeating the Volunteers 67-58.

"How does he respond from this? How does he play going forward?"

Despite a 5-of-17 shooting performance against Tennessee, which included a measly 1-of-6 from behind the three-point arc, Wilbekin finished the night with his best scoring output of his career with 21 points.

Being sent to the line 12 times and knocking down 10 free throws helped the senior tack on some extra points and helped the team ice the game Tuesday.

"How does he respond from this? How does he play going forward?"

Billy Donovan

UF coach

Not only did Wilbekin showcase his skills as a scorer, but he was also unselfish with the ball, recording a game-high six assists in 35 minutes of play.

Add four steals on the defensive end of the floor and you get one of Wilbekin's most balanced games of his career.

However, Kentucky has not been as kind to the 6-foot-2 point guard as Tennessee has been in his career.

In eight career games against the Wildcats, Wilbekin and the Gators have won just two matchups, both at

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 13



AP Photo

Scottie Wilbekin (right) drives against Tennessee guard Josh Richardson during No. 3 Florida's 67-58 win against Tennessee on Tuesday night in Knoxville, Tenn. Wilbekin led the Gators with a career-high 21 points.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tall soccer player stepping in for short basketball team

GORDON STREISAND

Alligator Writer

@GordonStreisand

In October, she played midfield for the soccer team. In January, she started practicing with the basketball scout team.

By chance, the now dual-sport athlete Pamela Begic joined coach Amanda Butler's basketball team, deepening Florida's still shallow roster to nine active players.

"I wasn't looking for it, that's for sure," Begic said.

"The coach actually approached me

because she heard I played basketball in high school. So she approached me, and I went to a couple of practices just watching, and then I decided I kind of wanted to do it."

Coach Becky Burleigh presented the idea of joining the basketball team to Begic a few months ago.

"It was through Coach Burleigh," Begic said. "They talked and Coach Butler knew I played in high school even before that. Coach Becky actually approached me after practice and she was like, 'Oh, I

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 13

First baseman slugging early

► **SCHWARZ LEADS UF IN FIVE OFFENSIVE CATEGORIES.**

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer

@J_McPherson1126

After starting 57 games in 2013, Taylor Schwarz felt confident going into the start of the season.

"I feel like the nerves weren't even there this year, especially since having last year under my belt," the sophomore said. "I was just ready to get out there and play with my team."

After pacing all of UF's freshmen with 38 RBIs and logging nine home runs in 2013, Schwarz picked up right where she left off.

Through Florida's first six games, the Palm Beach Gardens native leads the team in batting average (.500), hits (8), runs (8), home runs (2) and RBIs (8). She is also the only batter to record a hit in every game.

But besides Schwarz, the majority of Flori-

da's batters have struggled at the plate.

Of UF's nine batters with at least 10 at-bats, six post a sub-.300 batting average and three players have more strikeouts than hits after Florida's opening games in Tampa.

UF Softball

"That was our first time stepping on the field as one team because we've been play-

ing each other for the past three, four weeks, maybe six weeks," Schwarz said. "So definitely getting a chance to play with each other — it was a different atmosphere, different energy on that field."

The Gators hope to improve their offense when they head to Las Vegas to compete in the Easton Desert Classic. Florida (6-0) starts action with a doubleheader today, playing Seattle (1-5) at noon followed by a game against Hawaii (3-2) at 2:15 p.m.

Despite having a strong outing at the USF Wilson-DeMarini tournament, Schwarz is not going to let her performance get to her head.

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 13



Olivia Janowicz was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week. Read the story on page 16.

Tweetable

"Haha give me my 10 seconds after every play"

Jonathan Bullard

UF defensive end on proposed NCAA football rule change

Prather on top list

UF forward Casey Prather was named to the Naismith Midseason Top 30 list. Prather leads the Gators with an average of 15.3 points per game.

Freshman joined depleted team after watching it practice

W-HOOPS, from page 12

have another idea. So, do you want to maybe try out for the basketball team?"

Sure enough, Begic decided to take the plunge.

"Pam entered an entirely different world," Butler said. "It was kind of baptism by fire; there was no warm-up, there was no, 'Let's take it easy.' We're in the middle of our season. If you're going to be able to join us, even in practice, there's not a lot of time for us to take her aside and tutor her."

"She's done it with an amazing amount of flexibility and understanding."

However, the circumstances that surrounded Begic's new role were somewhat dire.

The Gators started the season with nine active players after red-shirt sophomore Viktorija Dimaite re-tore her ACL. A hand injury to fellow sophomore Antoinette Ban-

nister had the roster down to eight, and Christin Mercer's arrest depleted Florida's roster to only seven active players.

"When we were staring down the barrel of us having seven players, even being able to practice effectively was a challenge," Butler said.

"So we wanted to give it a shot."

The 6-foot Begic is one of the tallest players on Florida's soccer team.

With rebounding being a constant issue for the basketball team, the freshman midfielder was brought in for her ability to grab some boards.

"Her rebounding is definitely there," Butler said. "The thing that makes her unique and makes her even capable besides just on the mental aspect is that she does have good size. She has great instincts, and that's a big part of rebounding."

"If there's a game situation that calls for Pam to be in there, I've got full confidence in her."

Having full confidence in playing someone without any collegiate

game experience speaks volumes of Begic's character.

A number of players have said that her presence alone improves team chemistry.

"Pam's so fun to be around," senior Lily Svete said. "She really works hard and she just has a good time. She brings a lightened spirit to the whole team."

Begic has been in uniform for Florida's past two games against Arkansas and Kentucky. Although she has yet to enter a game, Butler has devised some schemes where Begic could potentially see some minutes.

"We have some spots in the game, that if we need her, she knows these will be the spots that she'll play in," Butler said.

"She knows exactly what we expect her to do."

When asked if Begic thought she'd get to play this season, she seemed optimistic.

"We'll see," Begic said. "Hopefully ... a couple of minutes."



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Pamela Begic looks on from the bench during Florida's 75-67 win against Alabama on Jan. 30 in the O'Connell Center.

Schwarz carrying Gators on offense

SOFTBALL, from page 12

"I just took on that mindset that I'm not going to have a great game every game, but if it's not my game, I need to be there for someone else who is having their game," Schwarz said. "This past weekend, even though I was hitting pretty good, it's only our first weekend."

In the pitching circle, the Gators are hoping to continue to make strides.

Senior Hannah Rogers is one win away from becoming the second pitcher in Florida history to notch

100 victories.

Junior Lauren Haeger is coming off the first no-hitter of her career and boasts a team-best 1.08 ERA and 18 strikeouts through 13 innings.

Freshman Delanie Gourley won both of her first two collegiate starts, including an extra-inning win against then-No. 5 Michigan.

"I really wasn't that nervous because I think I just transfer that into excitement and adrenaline," Gourley said. "And I just really wanted to get started and kind of show what I had."

Continue reading this story online at alligatorSports.org.



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Taylor Schwarz swings during Florida's 4-2 win against Mississippi State on Apr. 6, 2013, at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. Schwarz leads the Gators in several offensive categories including home runs.

Florida facing SEC test in away game against Kentucky

HOOPS, from page 12

home in the O'Connell Center.

Although Wilbekin is 15 of 28 from the floor, including 7 of 13 from beyond the arc, against Kentucky, he has not been able to be the scoring threat that he has turned into this season. His two highest scoring outputs against the Wildcats were 14 and nine points, and both of those performances ended in victory for the Gators.

If Wilbekin, who has scored more than 14 points in eight of his 19 games so far this season, can continue his best offensive season Saturday, Florida has a shot to extend its SEC record to 12-0 for the first time in school history.

Wilbekin said his more balanced offensive attack as well as his ball-sharing ability is attributed to being a more vocal player on the court than he has been in past seasons.

However, Wilbekin will face his biggest test of the season in Rupp Arena, where crowds can reach as high as 23,000.

"I think I've done a better job and good job of being

more vocal on the court and trying to relay what coach wants as a position on the court," Wilbekin said. "So (I'm) just talking to my teammates, encouraging them and trying to get them on the right track."

Donovan, who is looking for only his fourth win ever in Lexington, Ky., and first since 2007, said his team has been challenged on the road this season in both conference and non-conference games. He believes that experience will help Saturday.

In addition to the squad's experience from its eight road games this season, Donovan said the veteran leadership of his four seniors, including Wilbekin, will provide stability to the younger players.

"Going to Wisconsin was a tough environment, having to go to Connecticut in a tough environment and then obviously, we've played four road games in a short period of time to start the league," Donovan said. "We've got some older guys that have been through it."

"They understand it and know what it takes. We're going against a team that is playing very good basketball and it wasn't so long ago that we played them."

Sophomore plays key role in blowout victory against Jacksonville



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Devon Schneider drives toward the net during Florida's 21-5 win against Jacksonville on Wednesday at Donald R. Dizney Stadium. Schneider scored four points against the Dolphins after she was held scoreless against the Tar Heels in the Gators' 20-8 season-opening loss on Feb. 8.

► SCHNEIDER SCORED FOUR POINTS.

EDEN OTERO

Alligator Writer

@edenotero_1

A loss at home on your birthday would be one you would never forget.

However, on sophomore Devon Schneider's 20th birthday, she got a big win.

No. 8 Florida lacrosse (1-1) went head-to-head with Jacksonville (0-2) on Wednesday, beating the Dolphins handily 21-5.

While junior Shannon Gilroy posted seven points to assist the Gators to their first win of the season, Schneider made an equally important impact on the game.

The sophomore notched a career-high four points, won two draws and forced one turnover for the Gators to take the win. She also recorded a season best in draw controls for the night.

Prior to Wednesday, her career-high for a single game was two points.

Schneider said that the practices following UF's 20-8 season-opening loss at No. 1 UNC on Saturday focused a lot on winning ground balls and draws.

"Our focus in practice was mainly just getting those 50-50 balls," Schneider said.

"They are anybody's game, so we really needed to come up with them and I think that we really im-

proved on that."

The 6-foot-2 attacker scored no goals at UNC and was 0-1 in free position shots.

However, Schneider's play against the Dolphins may have been the confidence boost the sophomore and the team needed.

"[50-50 balls] are anybody's game, so we really needed to come up with them and I think that we really improved on that. It was our main focus for the game."

Devon Schneider
UF midfielder

"It just shows that we can play together and that we can be the team that we know we can be," Schneider said. "It shows not only us, but it shows our fans that we can do it. We can win."

Schneider is on her way to topping her points total from 2013.

In her freshman year at Florida, she scored only six points. Wednesday's game alone has put her two points away from tying her season high.

The Lititz, Pa., native made big impacts for the team in her freshman year, most notably when she came off the bench in the second round of the NCAA Tournament and scored a point against Denver.

Schneider has started in the first two games of 2014 and is expected to start against High Point on Saturday at 1 p.m.

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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

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TRACK AND FIELD

Florida racing to four meets despite fatigue

LAWRENCE LAGUNA

Alligator Writer

@LagunaLawrence

Although the UF track and field program has compiled 35 event victories in four meets this indoor season, fatigue has had a negative effect on athletes.

After competing four weeks in a row, the Gators have crossed the midway mark of the indoor schedule and move into what they call their "championship taper."

That point has arrived, and although some exhaustion has crept in, the team recognizes the intensity level has risen.

"They're human beings; they're not machines, and heck, machines break down," coach Mike Holloway said. "At the end of the day, you're not always going to have 100 percent, but they can always give us 100 percent of what they have."

"If they do that, we'll be fine."

At every meet this season, the men and women's squads have either broken a school record, or earned a new personal record.

However, the athletes don't solely generate top results on their own. It takes a coaching staff to take them there.

Associate coach Steve Lemke (throws) and assistant Nic Petersen (jumps) received praise this past weekend after their respective athletes performed well.

"It's not just those two, it's my coaching staff as a whole," Holloway said. "When you go out and hire people, my goal is to try to get people who are like me. People who have the same passion, the same drive and the same focus that I do and I think my staff does that."

Lemke has coached thrower Stipe Zunic since the junior's freshman season, and Zunic notched his career-best shot put performance last weekend at the Virginia Tech Elite Meet.

Zunic tossed himself into seventh all-time in the UF record book with his 18.57-meter throw.

"(Lemke) has a lot of understanding," Zunic said. "Could've talked about everything, and step-by-step he just made me the athlete I am today for the Gators."

But Zunic's strength isn't launching a shot put through the air; it's also hurling a javelin.

Zunic said he considers himself a javelin thrower despite throwing discus and shot put since he started competing for UF.

But injuries kept him from throwing shot put for two years and javelin for one.

He said although it sounds crazy, those injuries worked out well for him.

"Those injuries kind of had to happen. I know it sounds crazy but it was to humble me down," Zunic said. "God's been putting great people in my life, my coaches, my physicians. Everyone here is great."

"Gradually, some things have to fall apart just to fall back in the right place so everything will start to go really well with all the rehabilitation and everything I was going through, taking it step by step one at a time, which made me patient."

Gators split up: This weekend, the Gators will split off toward four different meets.

Senior middle-distance runner Cory McGee will compete solo at the Millrose Games in New York City, sprinters will head to Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa State Classic, distance runners will head to Seattle, for the Husky Classic, and the rest of the squad will settle in College Station, Texas, at the Texas A&M Invitational.

Now heading into a massive weekend, Holloway wants his team to keep pressing forward.

"We pride ourselves on being multidimensional," Holloway said. "I pride myself on having assistant coaches who understand that process and who work hard to make sure we recruit athletes and coach them to the level we need them to be in."



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Cory McGee runs in the SEC Cross Country Championships on Nov. 1, 2013, at the Mark Bostick Golf Course.

UF going to Houston for ITA Indoor Nationals

BRITNEE MCCOY

Alligator Writer

@TheReporterGirl

Coach Bryan Shelton and the No. 12 Florida men's tennis team are more than ready to begin play at the ITA National Indoors Championships this weekend in Houston.

UF clinched its berth into the event with the 4-2 win against TCU on January 26th at the ITA Kickoff.

UF Tennis

Despite Florida's 3-0 record to start the season, the team fell in two straight matches in Los Angeles against UCLA and USC on Feb. 1-2.

The two losses showed the team that it still has a lot of work to do.

"We definitely got some great information about ourselves and two very good teams in UCLA and USC" Shelton said.

"Now we have to do something with that information and close the gap."

The team will kick off the tournament Friday at 10 a.m. against No. 5 Ohio State.

"They're perennially a very good team — one of the top teams in the country year-in and year-out" Shelton said.

Florida is seeking to reach the ITA National Men's Team Indoor Championship finals for the first time since 2003, as well as its first title at the event.

Said Shelton: "This team is hungry and ready to do what it takes."

Florida's next dual match comes against Florida State on Feb. 26.

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Janowicz leading the way for UF

Senior won league honor

IAN COHEN

Alligator Writer @ibcohen5

After a weekend of highs and lows at the National Team Indoor Championships, the Gators did not come away with an award.

Well, at least the team didn't.

For the first time in her career, senior Olivia Janowicz was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week.

The accomplishment was awarded to Janowicz after a career weekend at the national tournament, during which she compiled two upsets and led Florida to a 2-1 record against three top-20 opponents. Those three opponents are now ranked in the top 10.

The senior's best match play came against No. 9 Southern California on Sunday. The unranked duo of Janowicz and freshman Kourtney Keegan upset USC's seventh-ranked doubles team of Giuliana Olmos and Zoe Scandalis.

In singles play, Janowicz won her fourth match at the No. 1 spot when she defeated USC's 13th-ranked Sabrina Santamaria, who was ranked No. 1 in the fall. Santamaria was the highest-ranked opponent Janowicz has beaten in her collegiate career.

Janowicz also came away with a victory against Northwestern's Veronica Corning a

day earlier, despite the team's 4-2 loss.

She has shown steady improvement while playing at the No. 1 spot. Of the three seniors on the team, she has been this season's anchor at the one position.

However, it has not always been that way. Janowicz has often been overshadowed by more prominent members of the team.

"You got to remember, the

last four years, the one spot has been occupied by two of the best players to ever play at college in my opinion in Lauren [Embree] and Allie [Will]," coach Roland Thornqvist said. "So I think our seniors feel that this is their team and this is their opportunity. They've earned it."

After losing to Northwestern on Saturday, the Gators slipped to No. 5 in the ITA Rankings. Florida (6-1) will look to climb back when they return home to play No. 28 Florida State (5-2) on Tuesday at 4 p.m.



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Olivia Janowicz swings at the ball during Florida's 4-0 win against Harvard on Jan. 26 at the Ring Tennis Complex.

MEN'S GOLF

Gators look to continue success at home tourney

LAYNE WEITZEL

Alligator Writer @laynejweitzel

Junior J.D. Tomlinson has garnered a number of accomplishments in his golf career, but a SunTrust Gator Invitational title is not among them.

"I personally have never won this tournament," Tomlinson said, "so I think it'd be really cool to finally bring it back here."

Florida's men's golf team will try to keep the trophy in Gainesville when it kicks off the two-day, 54-hole SunTrust Gator Invitational on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. at the Mark Bostick Golf Course.

In the tournament's 36-year history, the Gators have been successful, winning 23 team titles and 10 medalist honors. They were especially dominant from 2004 to 2011, capturing eight consecutive team titles and two first-place medalist honors from Jonas Blixt in 2005 and Billy Horschel in 2009.

Florida's winning ways in its lone home tournament have tapered off in recent seasons.

UF fell short of another title in 2012, finishing third behind SEC opponent Auburn. Florida finished fourth last spring behind rival Florida State.

The Gators are eager to start up a new winning streak, both on their home course and overall.

"I think (this tournament) would be a good starting point to get a little momentum going," junior Eric Banks said. "We all feel

comfortable here, sleeping in our own beds."

A big reason why UF is feeling confident is because of its knowledge of the course.

"We play this course at least three times a week, so we know it real well," redshirt junior Santiago Gavino said. "The conditions play a little different this week than normal, but ... I think we are ready for it."

Course conditions will be less than ideal due to the rain forecasted for Saturday. But over time, UF has gotten used to chipping and shooting in mud rather than on grass.

"The team's coming off nice, conditioned golf courses coming out here; they're not going to be used to it," Tomlinson said. "So I think it'll only give us an advantage. Scores might be higher, but it should help us."

Coach Buddy Alexander and his golfers believe that this 14-team field, which includes five top 25 teams according to Golfstat.com, is one of the best that has come into Gainesville recently.

"It's stronger than the years before, for sure, and that's good for us because we'll get more competition, play against better players and show them what we have at home," Gavino said.

The field will begin with 36 holes Saturday and conclude with 18 on Sunday.

"We have something to prove, so I think it'll be a good week for us," Tomlinson said.



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BASEBALL

Florida searching for power after small-ball season

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Alligator Staff Writer

@alichtenstein24

Someone call Gainesville Regional Utilities. McKethan Stadium has been suffering a power outage since June 2012.

After the loss of home-run hitters Mike Zunino and Preston Tucker to professional baseball, the Gators suffered for the lack of the long ball in 2013.

Taylor Gushue, Justin Shafer and Casey Turgeon all tied for the team lead with five blasts — good for sixth on the 2012 squad.

But when Florida opens its season against Maryland tonight at 7, the Gators hope a mix of new sluggers and bulked-up returnees will force pedestrians on Stadium Road to be wary of flying baseballs.

“Power is one part of it,” coach Kevin O’Sullivan said. “I think the power part, we’re better (at).”

Gushue was a microcosm of UF’s power struggle last season. As a freshman in 2012, he made a quick splash, belting a home run in his first collegiate at-bat — a time when the then-18-year-old who left high school early should have been preparing for prom.

He finished his freshman season with five home runs after struggling during conference play. When he took a more central role last year, he matched that total despite starting 20 more games.

Gushue was not alone. The entire team struggled to muster any type of power. After leading the country with 75 homers in 2012 on the backs of Zunino and Tucker, the Gators struggled to launch 28 last year.

“I guess it’s all about mentality that you have at the plate,” Gushue said. “Not putting too much pressure on yourself in pressure situations ... I think this year it’ll be less because we have more bats in the lineup. We have guys who can get it done from top to bottom.”

Said first baseman Zack Powers, who contributed three home runs last season: “I think we’ve improved on power from the

last year.”

However, don’t expect Florida to get back to the level of the 2012 team.

Like last season, the Gators want to focus more on the brand of small ball O’Sullivan instituted.

“We practice the little stuff all the time,” second baseman Casey Turgeon said. “Every guy on the team, whatever time they come up to the box, they’re ready to do those little things.”

But to a team that had only one player re-

cord an on-base percentage greater than .350 in 2013, driving in runs is crucial.

For that, the Gators hope some more players can step up and drive the ball.

One of those players is third baseman Josh Tobias, who has bulked up since hitting .260 with only eight extra-base hits last season.

The junior said he weighed as much as 210 pounds during fall practice — 10 pounds more than he weighed last season — and is back down to 205 now.

“He’s always been really strong,” Gushue said. “But when we get in the weight room, he becomes a different animal.”

With nearly all of the Gators’ run producers returning and an incoming group of freshmen the returnees have raved about, Florida hopes this season will end in celebration rather than the disappointment of last year’s early postseason exit.

“We don’t have all the answers to the test,” Gushue said. “But we sure got a lot of them.”



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Taylor Gushue swings during Florida’s 4-1 loss against Florida State on Mar. 12, 2013, at McKethan Stadium. Gushue tied for the team lead with five home runs last year. Florida opens its season at home against Maryland tonight at 7.

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The **Copper Monkey**

FRIDAY
\$6⁵⁰ Pitchers
\$5 LITs

SATURDAY
69¢ Wings
\$5 Bombs
\$6⁵⁰ Pitchers

MONDAY
BURGER NIGHT!
\$3 Burgers
\$6⁵⁰ Pitchers