

Rachel Spicer  
 and the Florida  
 gymnastics team are  
 looking ahead to the  
 SEC Championships.  
 Read the story on  
 page 13.



# Campus fire sparks power outages in dorms, Lib West

## Power was restored in an hour

**ALEX HARRIS and SHAYNA POSSES**  
 Alligator Staff Writers  
 aharris@alligator.org  
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A small electrical fire Monday afternoon resulted in sporadic power outages across campus.

At about 4:30 p.m., the Nanoscale Research Facility, across the street from the New Engineering Building, experienced a

power surge, said UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes.

The facility partially lost power, as did parts of campus including Library West and Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

All power, with the exception of the facility, was back on by about 5:30 p.m.

"The power surge ultimately tripped the circuits at some of these buildings across campus," Sikes said. "No one was

*"The power surge ultimately tripped the circuits at some of these buildings across campus."*

**Janine Sikes**  
 UF spokeswoman

hurt."

Students in places like Library West didn't know why they were without power until they received UF Alerts.

When Mark Hegedus, a 19-year-old UF accounting freshman, got to the library, a

guard told him he couldn't go upstairs because of the power loss.

"They didn't tell me what was happening, so I had to make an excuse to get up there," he said. "It was really scary."

Inside the library, emergency lights came on while power was being restored.

Katherine Brisco, a 33-year-old UF health science senior, said she was sad she couldn't use her Starbucks app to buy coffee during the outage. But she said she enjoyed the change in lighting.

"It was kind of calming," she said.



William A. England / Alligator Staff

### Bombs Away

David Martinez, 26, and Daniel Pereira, 23, start St. Patrick's Day with a round of Irish Car Bombs at Mother's Pub and Grill at 7:30 a.m. Monday. Many Gainesville bars featured festive drinks including green beer.

## UF education college jumps up nine ranks

► IT'S NO. 21 NOW.

**EMILY JULSON**  
 Alligator Contributing Writer

The UF College of Education is now No. 21 among public education colleges after rocketing up nine spots in U.S. News and World Report's newest ranking.

The college was previously ranked No. 30 among all graduate schools — both public and private — in the education category.

It remains the highest-ranked education school in Florida and in the Southeastern Conference.

Several of UF's College of Education specializations remain highly ranked as well.

Special education and counselor education programs jumped to No. 5 nationwide, while elementary education — No. 16 — and curriculum and instruction — No. 18 — both remained ranked in the top 20.

UF met qualifications in overall research funding, average funding per faculty member, faculty-student ratio, student selectivity and peer assessments, among others, to attain its rating, said Tom Dana, UF College of Education assistant dean of academic affairs.

Dana said he believes the latest ranking is a reflection of a five-year effort to move forward in research funding.

The UF College of Education has put a stronger emphasis on obtaining external

**SEE EDUCATION, PAGE 4**

### CAMPUS

# Student proposes musical, LED fountain for remodeled Reitz

**GABRIELLE BEECHER**  
 Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF student wants to give the Reitz Union fountain a makeover — complete with rotating fountainheads that move to music and shoot colored water up to 60 feet in the air.

Clint Ferguson, a 20-year-old UF business management sophomore, has joined ranks with student engineers to design and build what he calls the first hydrotechnic fountain system on a university campus.

Hydrotechnic fountains control elements such as water, lighting and sound to create synchronized shows. Ferguson said if the proposal is accepted, the Reitz fountain would have

*"By night, there would be 30-minute, fully choreographed water shows with lasers and lights, all set to music."*

**Clint Ferguson**  
 UF business management sophomore

features like LED lights and waterproof sound systems for student-produced shows.

"By day, the pond would have a peaceful, pulsing fountain to give you something to drown out the cars and buses," he said. "By night, there would be 30-minute, fully choreographed water shows with lasers and lights, all set to music."

Ferguson said the project was inspired by World of Color, a show at Disney California Adventure Park.

He contacted the show's production company in Fall 2012 about the cost of bringing a similar system to UF.

The companies told him it would cost \$1 million. When he proposed the idea to the Reitz Union Board, members were supportive, but they told him to cut costs.

Ferguson decided to turn to student organizations to produce plans for the project's five systems: lighting, hydraulics, electronics, software and sound.

Enver Rehmani, a 20-year-old UF mechanical engineering junior, signed on as the mechanical lead after Ferguson pre-

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### FSU study finds links between body image, Facebook habits

"Like" obsessions can indicate disordered eating, pg 8.

### Invasive lizards haven't come to Alachua County yet

They're threatening native wildlife, pg 9.



### Gainesville mini therapy horses visit Zoo Atlanta

They tested reactions to service animals, pg 3.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

## UF Hillel self-defense class

Get ready for the best workout you can get! Krav Maga is a method of self-defense used by the Israeli Defense Forces. Come learn techniques with our Israel fellow today from 6:55 to 8 p.m. at UF Hillel. Matti has experience as a combat fitness and Krav Maga instructor in the IDF. For more information, contact him at matti@ufhillel.org.

## Accent Speaker's Bureau hosts

**Buzzfeed creator Jonah Peretti** Join Accent Speaker's Bureau on Thursday at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts for an evening of entrepreneurship, insight and inspiration with one of the leading media innovators of the 21st century. Peretti will discuss journalism, the evolving media landscape and his career followed by an open Q-and-A with the audience. Free student tickets will be available for pickup at the Phillips Center Box Office on Wednesday at noon. Students with valid Gator 1 Cards can receive up to two tickets. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the program begins at 8. For more information, visit facebook.com/accentufl.

## Paynes Prairie Fire Fest

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park will host Fire Fest on March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at the park's visitor center in Micanopy. The event is free with park admission, which is \$4 per individual and \$6 per vehicle. Activities will include hands-on demos, a scavenger hunt and fire equipment demonstrations.

## GatorWell focus group

GatorWell Health Promotion Services is looking for UF students to participate in a one-hour confidential focus group about interpersonal violence issues on campus. These focus groups will take place through Thursday at the GatorWell location on Radio Road.

## FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 72/51	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 79/52	<b>SUNNY</b> 78/51	<b>SUNNY</b> 79/58	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 80/55

Participants will receive \$20 UF Bookstore gift cards and free pizza. To participate, email GatorWellProjects@mail.ufl.edu. Use subject line "My Campus." Participants must be 18 years or older and enrolled UF students.

## Register for Three-Minute Thesis Competition

The UF Graduate School is partnering with I-Cubed to host its first Three-Minute Thesis Competition in April. The competition challenges doctoral students to present their dissertations to a non-technical audience in three minutes or less. Preliminary heats will be held this month to determine finalists for the grand finale event on April 3. Along with helping graduate students hone their communication and presentation skills, winners will be awarded cash prizes. For more information and to register, please visit tinyurl.com/UF3MT. This competition is open to international students.

## Lavender Graduation

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs is hosting its annual Lavender Graduation on April 18 at 7 p.m. The ceremony acknowledges the achievements and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally students at UF. The event is to recognize these students' leadership and service experiences that have made a difference in improving the campus climate regarding LGBT issues. If you are graduating, notify LGBT Affairs to be recognized and receive a Lavender Graduation cer-

tificate and a rainbow tassel. Also, LGBT Affairs is looking for candidates for Spring 2014 Community Impact Awards and Rainbow Alliance Awards for Student LGBT Service and Research.

## 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](http://alligator.org/calendar)



The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email editor@alligator.org.

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# Gainesville mini therapy horses take trip to Zoo Atlanta

## They tested reactions to service animals

**BEATRICE DUPUY**

Alligator Staff Writer [bdupuy@alligator.org](mailto:bdupuy@alligator.org)

Fluttering her long eyelashes, she held her composure while the Sumatran tiger held its stare.

Not even a tiger could make 1-year-old miniature horse Sweetheart act anything contrary to her name.

Maybe it was the protective glass, but the white, toy-like horse did not appear fazed by the more than 200-pound cat eyeing her.

Sweetheart and her sister Magic have returned to Gainesville after about two weeks of traveling with Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses, a local nonprofit. The team of horses brings its tiny hooves into hospitals and hospices each year to comfort children and adults.

While on their first multi-state children's hospital tour of the year, the two horses were invited to visit Zoo Atlanta to act as stand-ins for service animals.

The horses visited the zoo to provide consultation on how zoo animals would react to service animals and how service animals would maneuver around the zoo.

During their zoo visit, the horses saw twin baby pandas and komodo dragons and rode on the carousel, said Debbie Garcia-Bengochea, co-founder of Gentle Carousel.

"They were the same size as the little carousel horses," she said. "Our horses do much more

than horses around the world would do."

The horses walked around the zoo with the zoo veterinarian and videographer.

Garcia-Bengochea said it was the first time horses had been allowed to walk in the zoo.

The nonprofit's miniature horses are famous around the world for their help in times of tragedy.

Garcia-Bengochea said often, sick children have never seen a horse before.

"A lot of the cases, it will be the only horses they ever touch," she said.

In 2013, the therapy horses were brought to Moore, Okla., to comfort victims of the May tornado.

After the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the horses were invited to come and help ease the pain for residents of Newtown, Conn. With the blessing of a 6-year-old victim's parents, a Gentle Carousel miniature horse was given her name: Catherine Hubbard.

Gentle Carousel's outreach doesn't end in the U.S. The nonprofit has taken the therapeutic horses overseas. The organization opened up a branch in Greece to help children in hospital care and orphanages.

Garcia-Bengochea said the horses' training at UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital has great-

ly helped in preparing them for their travels. At the hospital, the horses have been used for everything from helping patients retake their first steps to encouraging burn victims to stretch by reaching to touch the animals.

"We've seen a lot of little miracles there," she said.

The organization has 27 miniature horses in training for its therapy program.

Andrea Gilbert, staff occupational therapist at the UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital, uses the horses to work with some of her older patients. Gilbert said having the horses at the hospital instantly brightens up the patients and "helps them forget their pain for once."

"Gruff, grumpy old men can't help but break out into a smile and reach out to touch the little creatures," she said.

To get an early start on training, the baby horses are brought

into the hospital with their mothers. When Sweetheart was about 8 weeks old, she was brought to the hospital.

"She would lay her head in people's laps," Garcia-Bengochea said. "She had hearts shaped on her hips when she was born."

While the other horses get back to helping people in therapy, Sweetheart and Magic will be taking a short vacation after their tour.

"They're like little rock stars," Garcia-Bengochea said.



Courtesy to the Alligator

Miniature horse Sweetheart visits the Zoo Atlanta as a member of Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses. The horses visited to provide information on how zoo animals react to service animals.

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# Malt beer gets sudsy in student-created St. Paddy's Day soap

► THE SOAPS COST \$2 TO \$4.

**DAHLIA GHABOUR**

Alligator Contributing Writer

St. Patrick's Day celebrations often include a dash of beer — but not usually in soap form.

UF chemistry senior Katrina Benzrihem's soap making busi-

ness, Lather and Suds Soaps, offered a 25-percent discount for the holiday on a new soap. Called The Drunken Irishman, it includes basil and a half-ounce of malt beer.

"It's more of a masculine soap," she said. "I thought a lot of women buy my soaps, so this is actually a tobacco bay leaf scent. It's a bit musky."

Benzrihem, 21, said she first

*"You have to be creative when you mess up, but the best part is you can't really waste it."*

**Katrina Benzrihem**  
UF chemistry senior

thought of soap-making a year ago when UF's Mad Scientists Club was brainstorming fundrais-

ers.

Her soaps run from \$2 to \$4, with the average being \$3 for a 3-ounce soap.

She said her knowledge of chemistry has helped her with her creative processes. After all, soap is made through simple chemical reactions.

"You have to be creative when you mess up, but the best part

is you can't really waste it," she said. "You melt it back down, and you start all over."

Genevieve Comeau, a 20-year-old UF entomology junior and president of the Mad Scientists Club, said she's impressed with what Benzrihem has produced.

"I think they're really well done," she said. "Art and science go well together."

## LOCAL

# First Fla. cohousing, eco community to sprout in Gainesville

**MELISSA MIHM**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Families looking for a more community-based and eco-friendly style of living might be interested in purchasing a home at the first official cohousing community in the state of Florida.

Gainesville Cohousing is planning to build a community of 24 houses, which will provide families with an opportunity to live in a close-knit society with shared resources, said Judy Broward, a future resident and current community planner.

With cohousing, individual houses reside in a general area and share common facilities. It's a cooperative community where members are expected to participate in the maintenance of the property, and in return, will be given the opportunity to contribute to society decisions, Broward said.

The 4.75 acres of land located at 4500 NW 27th Ave., where the community will be built, was purchased last month after a two-year search, Broward said.

She said the houses will be small, ranging between 800 and 1,600 square feet. The prices will vary between \$125,000 for the smaller units and a little more than \$200,000 for the larger ones.

There are 12 committed families, and Gainesville Cohousing is seeking 12 more. It hopes to get more young people and create an intergenerational community with people of all ages, Broward said.

The building process is expected to begin in a year and will take about five months to complete, said Burt Kempner, a future resident and community planner. He said what makes this cohousing community different is that it "isn't in the boondocks." Rather, it's within walking distance of the Thornebrook Village Shopping Center.

"My wife and I have been looking for a cohousing community for years. One day on a whim, we decided to Google it, and this popped up," Kempner said.

Architect Andrew Kaplan said the goal is for dwellers to function in the city while remaining tied to their sustainable living philosophy.

Kaplan will be living in the community with his wife, Cheryl Kaplan. He said the units will be solar-powered using energy collected from the common house, which will provide resources that community members will share. There will be a laundry room, a large kitchen and dining room, along with a playroom for the children.

The community will also have a pool,

garden, playground and a paved area where the children can "play ball and ride their Hot Wheels," he said.

Cheryl Kaplan described the living sit-

uation like an "extended family."

"It's the kind of place where if someone breaks their leg, the entire neighborhood flocks to their side," she said.



Melissa Mihm / Alligator

Andrew Kaplan shows a potential buyer an architectural rendering of the upcoming cohousing community, which will be located at 4500 NW 27th Ave.

## 'Stand Your Ground' tweak gains traction

► IT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN A COMMITTEE.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TALLAHASSEE — A Florida Senate committee has approved a bill that tweaks the state's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law.

The adjustments include allowing local law enforcement to set guidelines for neighborhood watch organizations, clarifying immunity and who can use a stand your ground defense and letting law enforcement conduct its investigations even when the law is being used.

The bill is co-sponsored by Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, and Sen. Chris Smith, D-Fort Lauderdale.

The bill has now been approved by two Senate committees and must go through two more before it reaches the floor. The Community Affairs committee is the next stop.

The legislation passed unanimously Monday, despite being a topic that traditionally splits down party lines. The NRA, represented by Marion Hammer, even supported the changes.

## Plans are inspired by Disney's World of Color

**FOUNTAIN**, from page 1

sented the idea during a Gator Robotics club meeting.

"My biggest challenge is finding published diagrams of projects similar to this to get ideas," Rehmani said. "Disney didn't publish any blueprints of the World of Color show, so I'm kind of on my own when it comes to finding the best way to make it work."

Eric Schwartz, a UF engineering professor and Gator Robotics faculty adviser, said he's worried about the foun-

*"My biggest challenge is finding published diagrams of projects similar to this to get ideas."*

**Enver Rehmani**  
UF mechanical engineering junior

tain's durability.

"I believe that it could be done, but I don't know whether they have capabilities to do it right," he said. "If they can make it work, that's great. But will it work for a week, a month or seven years?"

Ferguson said he's confident stu-

dents will be able execute the project and save UF money.

By collaborating with students instead of big companies, he said, he expects to lower the budget to about \$250,000. He is looking to finance the project through Student Government, alumni or corporate sponsors.

"We could have bought a fountain for \$1 million, but if we build it as students, it is worth a lot more than that," Ferguson said. "So we are able to cut the budget and showcase just what Gators are capable of."

## Increased research funding helped the rank

**EDUCATION**, from page 1

research grants at both the national and local levels. The college has revamped an office specifically designed for writing and submitting grant proposals and managing grants, Dana said.

"We have increased our research funding for six consecutive years," Dana said. "That's something we are really proud of."

But Dana said an area that could be improved is the faculty-student ratio.

"We are already conducting searches for those faculty," Dana said.

Stephanie Dhue, a UF graduate student studying special



Dana

education, agreed the ratio could be improved.

"Having graduate students teach us is sometimes frustrating," she said. "But our small class sizes give us a lot of opportunity for group projects and collaboration, so it works."

Dana said he thinks UF can also improve the selectivity of doctoral students, which is based off acceptance rates and average GRE scores.

"Our selectivity is not as high as peers around us," Dana said. "This could improve our rankings, but looking at the whole student is more important to us. We look for a diverse array of accomplishments, not just GRE scores."

# Professor's grant may bring UF to water research forefront

► THOMAS BIANCHI WON A GRANT FOR RESEARCH.

**MICHELLE LÜCHAU**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF geology professor's new grant may put UF in the forefront of hydrology research for years to come.

The National Science Foundation awarded a grant to Thomas Bianchi for research on the planned flow of the Colorado River into Mexico.

The Colorado River is a heavily manipulated river, with many dams and diversions, and overuse of the water upstream has resulted in a dry riverbed in Mexico, Bianchi said.

Beginning Saturday, a controlled flow of water, called a pulse flow, will be released at the Morelos Dam between Baja California and Arizona.

The expected rise in microbial activity due to the pulse flow will release greenhouse gases, providing valuable research that may contribute to similar events in the future, Bianchi said.

However, Bianchi will specifically measure the region's effects on water chemistry.

The NSF chose to fund this project because of the relevance of the research to both the U.S. and Mexico. Bianchi's team will be traveling with Mexican scientists to better understand the impact of the event.

The Colorado River Project is

timely for Bianchi, who published a book called "Biogeochemical Dynamics at Major River-Coastal Interfaces" last year. He will be the lead principal investigator of the efforts that are funded by the NSF.

"This is just a small grant that we were able to get to be in on the first bit of the sampling, which now gives us an opportunity to take the lead to develop a bigger collaboration between Mexican and U.S. scientists," he said.

Going into the field is Bianchi's graduate assistant Rory Kates, a 22-year-old UF history and geology senior.

Kates is flying out Friday to collect water samples with researchers from the University of Arizona. He will wade into the water with bottles for sampling at the site of the release and at six stations across the Mexican border.

"This is really exciting, really new," he said. "It's definitely an opportunity to really put UF's name out there."

But the importance of this project extends beyond UF, said Ashley Meade, a 19-year-old UF wildlife ecology and conservation freshman. She said conservation of wetlands is significant because they are disappearing.

"The project seems very important and exciting because they will be measuring evidence of an ecosystem being restored," she said. "It could mean great things for wildlife."

## LIFESTYLE

# Taco Bell testing mobile ordering app

**KELLY VOLLMER**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

When the drive-thru isn't fast enough, a new Taco Bell app will allow customers to live más through mobile ordering.

Taco Bell is testing a new app for customers to order and pay for their food entirely from their smartphones. The company plans to roll out the app later this year.

Bonnie Riggs, the restaurant industry analyst for the National Purchase Diary Group's food

service division, said this new wave of technology could come with complications.

"I'm going to say that it's a great idea, but I think operationally there's a lot of challenges associated with it," she said. "My biggest concern was how do they do this operationally without alienating other customers."

She said restaurant owners would have to add a separate pick-up area and drive-thru lane if they want to follow through with the app's claims of eliminating long lines.

Plus, she said, they'd have to find a way to fill mobile orders along with the normal in-shop customers.

Even with the implied changes, Juan Zapata, a UF advertising junior involved with the Taco Libre Party, said he would definitely use the app.

"Considering students, especially here at the University of Florida, we're super fast-paced," said Zapata, 21. "We live in an age where technology is everything ... everything is a 'you gotta have it now' mindset."



AP Photo

## Education Demonstration

Gov. Rick Scott conducts a round-table discussion about the Florida Prepaid College Program at a Miami high school Monday. The Florida Prepaid College Program has been around for 25 years.

## LOCAL

# Drive-thru Panera Bread location to open on Newberry Road

**ASHLEY KOBZA**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville is opening its first drive-thru Panera Bread later this year.

Megan Sones, a marketing coordinator for Panera Bread, said the restaurant is opening on Newberry Road in front of what used to be Stein Mart.

"We're hoping to have it open by July of this year," she said. "We put it up actually very quickly."

The marketing team has been looking at

*"We're hoping to have it open by July of this year. We put it up actually very quickly."*

**Megan Sones**  
Panera Bread marketing coordinator

locations for the last year, and she said the spot seemed perfect for the city.

"There's definitely a lot of people in Gainesville," Sones said. "To get from Archer (Road) to Newberry (Road) can take 30 minutes if there's heavy traffic."

Ordering via the drive-thru would take about the same amount of time as ordering in the restaurant, she said.

Sones said she expects a mixture of university students and residents to visit the new location.

"It's right by the hospital, but it's also by the mall, and then there's all these apartments behind it," she said. "I think we are going to have a nice mixture."

City of Gainesville planning manager Ralph Hilliard said it took two months to approve a permit for the building.

"We review the plans to make sure they are consistent with our land development code," he said, "and then (when) they're consistent and get approved, they apply for their building permit."

Sabrina Heck, a 19-year-old UF English freshman, said she thinks the drive-thru option will help alleviate the lines at the Archer Road location.

"That Panera always gets really crowded," she said. "There are a lot of times where you can't find a place to sit."

# Scientists: Evidence spotted for universe's early growth spurt

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NEW YORK — Researchers say they have spotted evidence that a split-second after the Big Bang, the newly formed universe ballooned out at a pace so astonishing that it left behind ripples in the fabric of the cosmos.

If confirmed, experts said, the

discovery would be a major advance in the understanding of the early universe. Although many scientists already believed an initial, extremely rapid growth spurt happened, they have long sought the type of evidence cited in the new study.

The results reported Monday emerged after researchers peered into the faint light that remains

from the Big Bang of nearly 14 billion years ago.

The discovery "gives us a window on the universe at the very beginning," when it was far less than one-trillionth of a second old, said theoretical physicist Lawrence Krauss of Arizona State University, who was not involved in the work.

"It's just amazing," Krauss

said. "You can see back to the beginning of time."

Marc Kamionkowski, a theoretical physicist at Johns Hopkins University who did not participate in the research, said the finding is "not just a home run. It's a grand slam."

He and other experts said the results must be confirmed by other observations, a standard caveat

in science.

Right after the Big Bang, the universe was a hot soup of particles. It took about 380,000 years to cool enough that the particles could form atoms, then stars and galaxies. Billions of years later, planets formed from gas and dust that were orbiting stars. The universe has continued to spread out.

Editorial

## Florida's child-welfare problem revealed

On Sunday, the Miami Herald released a chilling investigative report about the failure of Florida's Department of Children and Families in recent years to protect the children of drug users. The project is the result of a yearlong investigation by two Miami Herald reporters, Audra D.S. Burch and Carol Marbin Miller.

In the past six years, the report stated, 477 children have died under the DCF's watch — a number that far exceeds what was reported by the governor and lawmakers, the Herald's executive editor said.

"The children were not just casualties of bad parenting, but of a deliberate shift in Florida child welfare policy. DCF leaders made a decision, nearly 10 years ago, to reduce by as much as half the number of children taken into state care, adopting a philosophy known as family preservation," one section of the report reads. "They also, simultaneously, slashed services, monitoring and protections for the increased number of children left with their violent, neglectful, mentally ill or drug-addicted parents.

"The result: Many more children died."

One case in particular demonstrates the department's failure: In 2009, a 2-year-old girl was squeezed to death by her 19-year-old mother's pet Burmese python. The DCF was fully aware of the mother's addiction to various narcotics, and when child-welfare investigators visited the mother's home, they deemed the snake's habitat — a quilt safety-pinned over the open aquarium — safe. The investigators then made the mother and her boyfriend, who lived with them, sign a piece of paper stating they would not use drugs in front of the child.

According to the report, "While generally a safety plan would ask that the parents refrain from using drugs at all, versus 'in the presence of the child,' the parents were unwilling to agree to stop using drugs," DCF's quality-assurance review of the investigation later explained."

One night, after the mother took an unprescribed Vicodin and fell asleep, the snake slithered out of the habitat and into the child's bedroom. The mother's boyfriend found the snake in the child's crib the next morning, still wrapped around her body.

This case, like the other 476 cases, could have been prevented.

Rather than pledge to end the DCF's malpractice, Gov. Rick Scott has defended the department, saying it complied with laws that mirrored other state laws. Essentially, he said, DCF investigators don't have the authority to rule a home situation too dangerous for a child. It may bring cases to court and let a judge decide, but as the Miami Herald report stated, many investigators simply don't.

There are no gray areas in the DCF's mishandling of children in Florida's child-welfare system: The department needs more transparency, increased funding and better management.

Meticulously crafted reports such as this one from the Miami Herald don't come often, but when they do, they affect policy and change. We hope, in this case, the change is speedy and the policies do more to protect children in the state of Florida.

### Reader response

**Today's question:** Do you study at Panera?

**Monday's question:** Have you ever been in a bar fight? **24% YES**  
**76% NO**

91 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)

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### Column

## Male apathy: the tragedy in sexism fight

The reaction from fellow males to my column last week on the male role in misogyny at UF was quite revealing.

Seeing how radically different the tenor of the responses from men and women were from each other, it's vital that we explore male apathy toward sexism.

But first, we need to break down the sexism problem a little better.

At an abstract level, almost everyone agrees that sexism is akin to racism in that both are human rights issues.

Despite much progress in certain areas, demeaning language toward women continues with no end in sight.

The justifications seem fool-proof: "They're just jokes. Take a chill pill or have a sense of humor. After all, we love our women."

For years, we as men have shut down criticism of our sexism with "Let's not make a big deal — why don't you calm down?" These patronizing words serve to painfully remind women that male supremacy shouldn't be questioned. It's very easy to say, "Take a chill pill," when we're the ones responsible for — instead of having to suffer from — the misogyny internalized in our college culture.

But when you spend your semesters knowing that there's a 25-percent chance of being sexually assaulted by the time you graduate because of your gender; when you hear the discourse around sexual violence being cleverly framed as just a women's issue despite 99 percent of rapes actually being perpetrated by men; when you find a naked woman covered in blood next to a Dumpster on Fourth Avenue screaming and repeating, "He raped me," yet the reporting officers could not care less about finding the perpetrator; when you're afraid to report a rape because the perpetrator's social circle will shame you for being "flirty" and having "led him on;" when you become frustrated that in the 21st century, it's still not safe for members of your gender to walk alone at night;



**Zulkar Khan**  
opinions@alligator.org

when you're routinely catcalled various "compliments" on how your physique caters to male-set criteria; when certain academic and career fields are presented as "boys' clubs," tying intellectual inferiority with your gender identity; when 35 percent of men admit to having some likelihood

of committing sexual assault if they were given full immunity; when you're a "chick," similar to how an adult black man was a "boy" in the heyday of racism; when you live day in and day out struggling to restore your human dignity and not have your worth reduced to sexual organs — then you will know why women find it difficult to, "Take a chill pill."

I hope that living in a cocoon of male privilege doesn't hinder us — men — from understanding why the outrage over sexism is legitimate and necessary.

There are men who are genuinely disturbed by how females are belittled in front of their very eyes every day but are wary of voicing their conscience. This apathy is intolerable.

Martin Luther King Jr. said the "greatest tragedy" wasn't the "vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but the appalling silence and indifference of the good people" — he was referring to the white folks, who despite being sympathetic to the blacks' struggle for dignity, kept to the sidelines during the Civil Rights movement.

How long will it take for men to step up?

To echo anti-sexism activist Jackson Katz: As soon as it becomes more normal for men to speak out against the degradation of women than it is for them to commit it, "We'll be a lot healthier society than we are today."

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

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

## Column

## We should embrace, not ban, 'bossy'

This is probably going to be an unpopular opinion because I am siding against the all-powerful Beyoncé, but give me a chance to explain myself. The iconic recording artist, along with other well-known women like Jennifer Garner, Jane Lynch and Condoleezza Rice, has joined Girl Scouts of the USA and Lean In in a campaign to ban the word "bossy."



**Lauren Adamson**  
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In a video promoting the effort, Beyoncé says, "I'm not bossy. I'm the boss." Now some of you "Beys" may want to call me the other b-word right now for criticizing your idol, but that's OK. I would simply reappropriate the slander and wear it with pride — which is what I think people should do with the word "bossy."

Now, Girl Scouts has a lot of good things going for it — Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-si-dos — and, of course, it develops self-confidence and good decision-making in girls. This "Ban Bossy" initiative draws attention to the sexism often attached to the word; when I Google the definition of "bossy," the first example sentence to pop up uses the pronoun "she."

"She was headlong, bossy, scared of nobody and full of vinegar," says the Oxford Dictionary. Using the word to primarily describe the actions of a woman is a trend that continues on Urban Dictionary, across the Web and in our thoughts and conversations.

"A 2008 survey by the Girl Scouts of nearly 4,000 boys and girls found that girls between the ages of 8 and 17 avoid leadership roles for fear that they will be labeled 'bossy' or disliked by their peers," according to Sheryl Sandberg and Anna Maria Chavez in a Wall Street Journal article.

However, I don't think this gender gap is going to be closed by eliminating a word from our lexicon. There will always be other words people

can use to belittle assertive women, such as "emotional," "shrill," "high-strung," etc.

Instead, I think we should follow in the less majestic footsteps of another feminist icon and funny gal, Tina Fey. Fey owns her bossiness rather than banishing it; she even titled her memoir, "Bossypants," in which she advises, "Don't waste your energy trying to educate or change opinions; go over, under, through, and opinions will change organically when you're the boss. Or they won't. Who cares? Do your thing, and don't care if they like it."

Rather than ridding our language of a word, we should try to change the perception of it. This has been done with other words that have previously been used negatively but have now been adapted into positive terms, such as "nerd" and "geek."

Similarly with "bossy," when I Google "nerd," definitions often use example sentences with the pronoun "he."

"Nerd" has been primarily used to mock boys with less-than-impressive physiques and athletic prowess who are more interested in academic pursuits, but lately this image has transformed. Now, when I think of nerds, I think less Steve Urkel of "Family Matters," and more of John and Hank Green of Nerdfighters, Wired magazine, Steve Jobs, "Doctor Who" and Natalie Portman wearing a "Star Wars" shirt. I would say being a nerd is even trendy.

So no matter what someone calls you, you can choose how you wish to perceive that label.

As Beyoncé once said, "Your self-worth is determined by you. You don't have to depend on someone telling you who you are."

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

## Column

## The real 'True Detective' mystery

The HBO original series "True Detective" had its season finale March 9, and fans went crazy analyzing it. The story centers around two detectives, Marty Hart and Rust Cohle. The two were assigned as partners in 1995 when a mysterious homicide, indicative of cult actions, led them down dark paths to solve the case. The series takes place over 17 years.

Life's ups and downs take their tolls on Hart and Cohle. As the series progresses, viewers see the drastic changes in their relationships with each other and with their loved ones. Warning: spoilers ahead.

Prostitutes, strippers, nagging wives, mistresses and corpses: These are the adult women of "True Detective." While it seems unfair that women in the show get a bad rap, the truth of the matter is that the show centers on Hart and Cohle and their mission to solve a case while also trying to keep their lives from falling apart. However, it seems, in this show, a woman can't keep her crap together long enough to not get metaphorically kicked down by a man.

This is the most apparent in Maggie Hart, Marty's beautiful wife. Out of all of the women in the show, the audience gets the most complete story about her character. In her conversations with other characters, she seems like a woman with a great head

on her shoulders. However, when it comes to her relationship with her husband, she turns a blind eye to all the red flags he continuously throws up.

While the audience and even Cohle become aware of Marty's affairs with younger women, Maggie needs the evidence completely spelled out for her before she really takes any action against her husband. She leaves him but only temporarily. A matter of months pass before she reconciles with her husband. You can't teach an old dog new tricks, so Marty cheats on Maggie again. She finally leaves him, but not before she runs over to Cohle's house and has the world's fastest revenge sex. The message: Maggie was docile, purposefully ignorant and driven into spite. This is the classic misogynistic depiction of women since early history.

Furthermore, Hart and Cohle work for the Louisiana state police, and yet the only woman working there is Marty's secretary. She is a vivacious, curvy black woman who calls everyone "Honey" and "Sweetie" and of-

fers the men coffee every day. No female officers are ever seen.

The last woman we are introduced to in the series is the aunt/girlfriend of Errol Childress, the main antagonist of the series, who is inbred and mentally unstable. She is sexually and emotionally exploited by Errol and is no more than a piece of scenery that helps explain Errol's twisted way of life.

When all is said and done in "True Detective," women don't ever "save the day" or do anything of importance besides make things worse. Since the series focuses more on the relationships people have with one another than with the crimes, I would go as far as to say the viewers see women through the eyes of the southern cops, Cohle and Hart.

The duo becomes self-involved, and they alienate themselves from their loved ones; in return, the audience experiences a similar effect.

It would be more comforting to know the writers purposely portrayed women in negative ways rather than them unintentionally disrespecting women. If there is a "True Detective" season 2, hopefully the writing staff will figure out a way to wriggle in a strong female character that doesn't get the life sucked out of her by a male character.

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



**Rachel Kalisher**  
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## Column

## No one wins when women are criticized

*Ed. note: Due to its subject matter, this column uses strong language.*

Corinne Fisher and Krystyna Hutchinson want you to know that slut-shaming isn't OK.

In their podcast, "Guys We F\*\*ked, The Anti Slut-Shaming Podcast," they discuss, obviously, the guys they've had sex with in order to fight the stigma of being a slut.

The podcast "encourages women to feel more comfortable with themselves and everyone to have more great, shame-free sex," according to a Huffington Post article.

Count me in for anything that spreads awareness of the negative repercussions of labeling others as sluts.

The concept of slut-shaming isn't new. It's a societal construct that shames women for how much sex they are — or aren't — having.

It teaches women that sex is bad and reinforces the idea that self-worth, in addition to your societal value, is based on your sex life.

We've created an impossible environment to succeed in because shaming women adds fuel to the fire that is the Madonna-whore complex.

In that line of thought, there are only two options: Women can either be saintly and pure Madonnas or dirty, sexually experienced whores. You can thank Freud for ignoring all the other sexual possibilities available to women.

This creates a world of sexual oppression for women. Madonnas are respected but cannot engage in sex, and whores are desired but treated as second-class citizens.

Essentially, there's no way for a woman to win this game.

This creates an even bigger problem: There are no set criteria for being a Madonna or a whore.

Things would be a lot easier if there were an equation for it. You hook up with X-amount of people in Y-amount of time and then wham, bam, thank you, ma'am: You're a slut.

But it doesn't work that way because the label is highly subjective.

I've heard Taylor Swift labeled as such for having four boyfriends in a year, and Miley Cyrus called the same for twerking. Those are two very different actions, but apparently both can earn you the "slut" label.

Use of the word has gotten so out of control that you can earn it for almost everything.

Basing the label on a certain number of sexual partners doesn't work, either.

My number may be higher than some, thus making me more deserving of the label than anyone to ever have lived. At the same time, my number could be less than others, making me an innocent Girl Scout.



**Robyn Smith**  
opinions@alligator.org

I have never understood slut-shaming quite simply because I don't understand what is so awful about being a so-called "slut."

Sex is healthy and fun, and as long as you are doing it with consent and protection, there is no reason to be ashamed.

Moreover, there is no reason to shame other people for what they do in the bedroom — or on the kitchen counter, living room couch or Florida Field's 50-yard line. Unless you are involved in the activity, it's not your business.

However, this is all ignoring another big problem in the slut paradigm: Only females can be sluts.

Slut-shaming is a tool used by the — brace yourself — patriarchy to punish women.

The line of thought says women cannot be promiscuous, but they must have some sexual experience or else they aren't desirable.

Women cannot enjoy sex because that's promiscuous, but they also cannot abstain because that's uptight and prudish.

Men, there's reason for you to stop using the label as well. It hurts you, too.

Freud gave us the Madonna-whore complex, but we can thank a concept called hegemonic masculinity for this one.

Essentially, men have to strive for an idealized version of masculinity that isn't actually attainable.

You see, masculinity is a frail thing that constantly needs to be reinforced. And "getting" a lot of girls is a great way to tell the world, "Hey folks, I'm a manly, heterosexual male. Look at my masculinity!"

So while women are told to keep their numbers low, men are taught to keep their numbers as high as possible. You see where this is going, right? The math just doesn't make sense.

If men keep insulting women for their sexual activity, they will stop having sex. This seems counterproductive to the heterosexual man's quest to get laid.

So how do we fix this? Well, we can stop using the word "slut," or we can turn the label into something more positive.

I want to see more of these so-called "sluts," but I want to see them as happy, successful and respected individuals rather than ashamed and stigmatized women.

The world needs more ladies like Samantha Jones, who show us it's OK to have a lot of sex. And if that makes us sluts? Well, so be it.

*Robyn Smith is a UF journalism sophomore. Her columns appear on Mondays.*

# Fla. chooses new test to replace FCAT

► THE NEW TEST WON'T BE ADOPTED UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Florida is ready to part ways with the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

Pam Stewart, the state's education commissioner, announced Monday that she has approved a six-year contract with a not-for-profit outfit to develop a new test students will be required to take a year from now.

Stewart's decision to approve the \$220 million contract with American Institutes for Research marks another significant step toward the state's transition away from the FCAT, which has drawn both praise and scorn for the way it transformed public schools.

The new tests will include more than the multiple-choice questions that are the framework for many standardized tests, including the FCAT. The commissioner also said Monday that students will use paper and pencil to complete the tests initially, but schools will gradually transition to online tests.

In a letter sent to principals Monday, Stewart said students will be asked to create graphs, interact with test content and "write and respond in different ways than they would on traditional tests." She added that the new questions will assess higher order thinking skills that are part of the higher expectations included in the state's new standards.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush made the FCAT the centerpiece of his A-through-F school grading system. Test results were not only used to evaluate schools but also to determine whether third-graders should be held back and whether high school

students were ready to graduate. Debate over the FCAT even triggered a change in state law about when the school year would start.

The new test, which does not yet have a name, will be based on a new set of standards from the contentious Common Core State Standards. Florida officials tweaked the math and English standards earlier this year to include items like a requirement for cursive writing. But this change has not ended the backlash against Common Core.

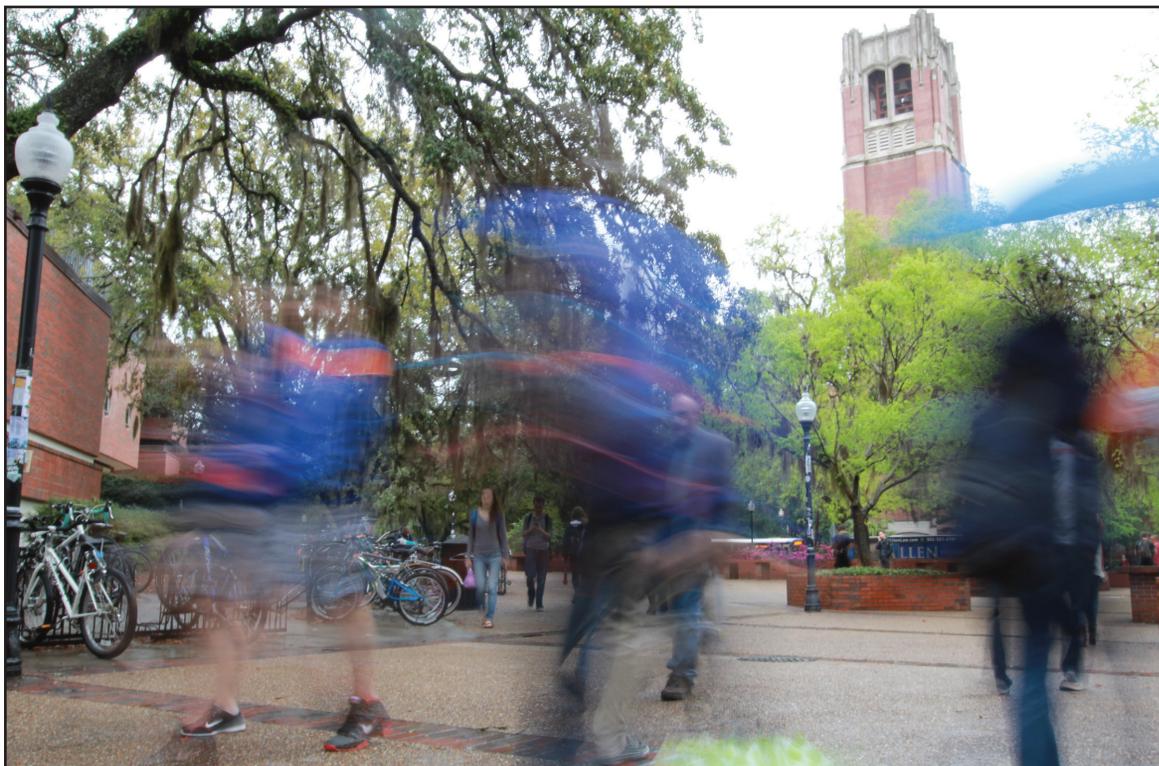
Florida was initially part of a national consortium developing a Common Core test, but the state pulled out of the Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness at the urging of Gov. Rick Scott and legislative leaders.

The group selected Monday has ties to a different national consortium that is developing its own Common Core test, but Stewart insisted the new test will be specific to Florida. She did note, however, that the types of questions used on the test were being tried out first this year in the state of Utah.

Randy Osborne, who works with the group Florida Parents Against Common Core, called the new testing vendor an "evil twin" to the previous group the state worked with.

"We can call it what we want, call it what we may," Osborne said. "We can call it Florida standards. I call it putting lipstick on a pig."

When Florida first adopted Common Core standards, one of the arguments in its favor was that it would allow parents to compare how Florida students compared to students in other states. Stewart, however, said there would be advantages to the new test, including that it would take less time than the one developed by the national consortium and could be given later in the school year.



Rachel Crosby / Alligator Staff

## Puddle Jumper

In a long-exposure photograph, UF students scurry across Turlington Plaza in the rain Monday afternoon between class periods. The predicted high was 70 degrees, and the chance of rain was at 100 percent.

## LIFESTYLE

# FSU study finds links between body image and Facebook habits

JADE CASTRO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Obsessive Facebook habits were linked to disordered eating in a new study from Florida State University.

The study, published in the International Journal of Eating Disorders, found that certain Facebook behaviors, such as focusing on receiving "likes" and comments and obsessively untagging photos, could potentially be indicators of distorted self-image and disordered eating.

"If you don't get the 'likes' or the comments, you feel like those in your network don't think you look good," said Andrew Selepak, director of UF's Master of Arts and Communications program with a specialization in social media. "It's a modern issue and one that continues to get worse."

In the study, researchers assessed the eating habits and Inter-

net usage patterns of 960 female college students by having them complete a questionnaire. Then, a smaller sample of 84 women from that group were selected for another experiment.

*"If you don't get the 'likes' or the comments, you feel like those in your network don't think you look good. It's a modern issue and one that continues to get worse."*

Andrew Selepak

UF Master of Arts and

Communications program director

Researchers asked some of the participants to log in to Facebook for 20 minutes while the others looked at different websites, according to the study. Afterward, participants were asked about their preoccupation with their bodies.

In both experiments, results

showed that participants who spent more time on Facebook generally had higher disordered eating scores, particularly those who untagged pictures and showed greater concern with receiving "likes" and comments.

Jim Probert, a licensed psychologist at UF's Counseling and Wellness Center, said part of the problem may be the natural human need for social support and validation from others.

"If someone is struggling to have more heart-to-heart connection with people," Probert said, "then maybe those kind of forms of validation become more important."

Autumn Barker, a 21-year-old UF English senior, said she thinks Facebook is a means for users to seek the approval of their peers.

"We want to be important in other people's opinion," she said. "If we don't get those 'likes' or comments, we don't get that approval."

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# Pride Awareness Month brings celebrities, drag queens to UF

► THE MONTH CELEBRATES THE STRENGTH OF AND PROGRESS MADE BY THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

JANA BERKOWITZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

Pride Awareness Month at UF, cited as the largest student-run LGBTQ+ series of events and celebrations in the country, kicked off Monday night.

Executive director Shawn Janetzke said the goal of the monthlong event is to celebrate and bask in the progress the LGBTQ+ community has made and to celebrate its strength.

"For a school in the South, we have an overwhelming amount of support from the administration, Student Government and the

Gainesville community," Janetzke said.

This is the first year that Pride Awareness Month has been intentional in giving under-represented parts of the LGBTQ+ community a voice and a platform, he said. Dialogues and events focusing on the intersections of various identities are expected.

*"Being a gay student myself, I feel like I should become more involved in raising awareness in being prideful of who you are."*

Aldo Araujo

UF public relations sophomore

"We are making the typical 'gay-only' programs a thing of the past," Janetzke said.

There are more than 24 events that will take place throughout the month, including

the return of a free concert April 15, showcasing Mary Lambert, the female vocalist in Macklemore and Ryan Lewis' hit song "Same Love."

Aldo Araujo, a 20-year-old UF public relations sophomore, said he attended the Pride Awareness Month drag show last year.

"This was a great chance to learn about gay culture and how drag queens are such a large part of it," he said. "It was definitely very eye-opening to see how awesome it was because I didn't know what to expect."

Araujo said he is excited about the chance to become more immersed in the LGBT community at UF and to connect with fellow students who also support the cause.

"Being a gay student myself, I feel like I should become more involved in raising awareness in being prideful of who you are,"

Araujo said.

Hiram Martinez-Cabrera, a 20-year-old UF public relations sophomore, said he has helped organize Pride Awareness Month in previous years and is a member of the UF Pride Student Union.

"In the week leading up to the event, your heart is breaking; you have Starbucks cups all over your room; you have bags under your eyes, and you have gray hair growing," Martinez-Cabrera said.

He said he enjoyed his time as a director, but as a spectator for this year's events, he is appreciative of the other students and seeing what Pride Awareness Month means to them.

"This isn't just a resume builder," Martinez-Cabrera said. "We do this because we love it. We work hard, we try hard, and the university really supports us."

## 'All right, good night' from MH370 came before shutdown

► THE PLANE VANISHED MARCH 8.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Officials revealed a new timeline Monday suggesting the final voice transmission from the cockpit of the missing Malaysian plane may have occurred before any of its communications systems were disabled, adding more uncertainty about who aboard might have been to blame.

The search for Flight 370, which vanished early March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board, has now expanded deep into the northern and southern hemispheres. Australian vessels scoured the southern Indian Ocean, and China offered 21 of its satellites to help Malaysia in the unprecedented hunt.

With no wreckage found in one of the most puzzling aviation mysteries of all time, passengers' relatives have been left in an agonizing limbo.

Investigators say the Boeing

777 was deliberately diverted during its overnight flight and flew off-course for hours. They haven't ruled out hijacking, sabotage or pilot suicide, and they are checking the backgrounds of the 227 passengers and 12 crew members — as well as the ground crew — for personal problems, psychological issues or links to terrorists.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said finding the plane was still the main focus, and he did not rule out that it might be discovered intact.

"The fact that there was no distress signal, no ransom notes, no parties claiming responsibility, there is always hope," Hishammuddin said at a news conference.

Malaysian Airlines CEO Ahmad Jauhari Yahya said an initial investigation indicated that the last words ground controllers heard from the plane — "All right, good night" — were spoken by the co-pilot, Fariq Abdul Hamid. A voice other than that of Fariq or the pilot, Zaharie Ahmad Shah, it would have been the clearest indica-

tion yet of something amiss in the cockpit before the flight went off course.

Malaysian officials said earlier that those words came after one of the jetliner's data communications systems — the Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System — had been switched off, suggesting the voice from the cockpit may have been trying to deceive ground controllers.

However, Ahmad said that although the last data transmission from ACARS — which gives plane performance and maintenance information — came before that, it was still unclear at what point the system was switched off, making any implications of the timing murkier.

The new information opened the possibility that both ACARS and the plane's transponders, which make the plane visible to civilian air traffic controllers, were turned off at about the same time. It also suggests that the message delivered from the cockpit could have preceded any of the severed communications.



Megan Reeves / Alligator Staff

### White Out

Sudevi Daglio, a 29-year-old local artist, paints a mural outside Vida Lounge downtown on Monday.

## STATE

# Invasive lizard species impacts Florida counties, but not Alachua

CLAUDIA STANTZYK-GUZEK

Alligator Contributing Writer

Wildlife specialists are worried about the potential impact of an invasive species of lizard on Florida's ecosystems. Though Gainesville isn't affected, students' hometowns may be.

The Argentine black and white tegu has made certain areas of Hillsborough, Miami-Dade and Polk counties its home, threatening the local wildlife.

The lizards are part of an invasive species native to South America that can grow to four feet long and use burrows as their habitats, ac-



Tegu

ording to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"They're really smart animals," said John Humphrey, a wildlife biologist with the National Wildlife Research Center. "They've got great eyesight."

Tegus feed on small animals, eggs, insects, fruits, vegetables, and cat and dog food. The biggest concern is with tegus feeding on native wildlife, especially endangered species.

"We have a major concern for any of our ground-nesting species that might already be threatened or endangered," said Jenny Ketterlin Eckles, a non-native wildlife biologist with the commission.

Gainesville does not have a population of tegus, but there is a possibility that a population could form should the animals be released or escape captivity, Humphrey said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Florida field station in Gainesville is working to improve ways to capture tegus.

"It is a growing problem," Humphrey said.

But because of the small tegu population size, he said, there is more potential in its removal and potential eradication. The established populations were likely founded by escaped or released pets, according to an FWC brochure.

Jesse Chesla, an exotic animal breeder and UF accounting junior, said customers may be uninformed when they purchase pets.

"A lot of people see them as babies and buy them as babies and never research the pets they actually buy," he said. "Eventually they get too big, and they think the only thing to do is to release them."

# Classifieds

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Quiet areas. For more info:  
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- |                         |               |                        |                    |                  |
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**ACROSS**

<b>CLUE</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Happy	EYHRCE
5. Force out	EJTCE
6. Bring together	NITEU
7. Pale, sick	APEKDE

**DOWN**

<b>CLUE</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Set of beliefs	DOCRES
2. Carry out	UEEXETC
3. Evaluate again	NIHKTER
4. Fan out	RSAEDP

**BONUS** **CLUE:** This was the first film to use DTS digital surround sound.

○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○

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

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 ANSWERS: 1A-Cherry 5A-Eject 6A-Unité 7A-Feaked 1D-Credos 2D-Execute 5D-Rethink 4D-Spread B-Jurassic Park

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H <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>		RACK 1 =	<u>12</u>
L <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	RACK 2 =	<u>66</u>
C <sub>3</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	RACK 3 =	<u>80</u>
C <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	<u>59</u>
<b>PAR SCORE 150-160</b>							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217</b>

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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

**CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES?** There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Poster is different. 2. Letter is missing. 3. Backboard is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Curtains are missing. 6. "For Sale" sign is missing.

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## UF preparing for either first-round opponent

**LONDON WATNICK**  
Alligator Staff Writer @LandonWatnick

Florida's historic Southeastern Conference slate culminated Sunday in a league crown, an undefeated conference record and a confetti bath in the Georgia Dome. After falling in the SEC Tournament championship to Ole Miss in 2013 and

Kentucky in 2011, UF's thrilling 61-60 victory against UK in the tournament final was an emotional game and a triumphant moment for its senior class.

But that's all history. Now, the Gators are back on the ground floor.

Tonight, No. 1 overall seed Florida will find out its second-round opponent — the winner

of the NCAA Tournament's first play-in game between No. 16 seeds Albany and Mount St. Mary's. At 4:10 p.m. Thursday in the Amway Center in Orlando, the Gators kick off their quest for their first national championship since 2007.

Neither opponent appears too daunting — a No. 16 seed has never knocked off a No. 1

in tournament history. But this is the first time in Donovan's coaching career that Florida will learn its first opponent not even two days before the tournament begins.

"This is a situation now where you're starting off really from scratch where everyone doesn't know each other and you're trying obviously to get prepared to play," Donovan said Monday during his weekly press conference.

"So, there is an excitement for both teams playing somebody new, but when you're playing against each other in a league over for us, it was 21 games. There's a lot of familiarity inside of those games that are being played. Personnel familiarity, what they're running on offense, what they're going to do on defense, what they're going to be running inbounds, special situations, there's a lot of familiarity there."

In preparation for Thursday's game, Florida's assistant coaches began watching tape of both teams Sunday night and will continue doing so on a regular basis until Thursday.

"What we may do on Tuesday in practice is maybe look at maybe some similarities some things we're going to have to do in both games that will definitely be a carryover and work on those things, instead of getting into, 'This is what Albany does, this is what Mount St. Mary's does,'" Donovan said.

"All of a sudden you're infiltrating your guys with stuff that may or may not happen. And then inevitably you get caught wasting practice time on

**SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15**



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Coach Billy Donovan embraces Scottie Wilbekin after Wilbekin received his Southeastern Conference Tournament MVP award on Sunday in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

## GYMNASTICS

# Florida ahead of championship team's pace

**ERICA A. HERNANDEZ**  
Alligator Writer @EricaAlyssa

Florida may have won its national championship in 2013, but the 2014 squad is far ahead of its predecessor.

At this point last year, now-No. 1 Florida (9-1, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) had two losses under its belt with only one 10. At the end of the 2013 regular season, Florida had yet to crack the 198 mark on the road and the Gators were recovering from their second loss — not the best way to close out a season.



Faehn

Now, Florida has posted the highest road score in the nation with a 198.20. The Gators haven't tasted defeat in almost a month, and they have scored eight perfect 10s this season.

"We felt all along that the makeup of our team is absolutely capable of this type of competition at any given time," coach Rhonda Faehn said. "Still, our team knowing that we can do better, which is great, because that's the

position we want to be in."

But Florida's road to this high point in the program's history was a carefully planned path.

"We knew we started out extremely slow and that was our plan," Faehn said. "At the beginning of the season throughout the first month, not really worrying about landings and repetitions, and then trying to get to this position. Where everyone is really feeling the freshest and the strongest heading into the SEC Championship."

**SEE GYM, PAGE 15**

## Gators get berth in Tournament

**GORDON STREISAND**  
Alligator Writer @GordonStreisand

After a quick two-game stretch in as many days at this year's Southeastern Conference Tournament, the Gators got some much needed time off heading into the NCAA Tournament.

Florida was named a No. 11 seed in the tournament Monday and will play sixth-seeded Dayton on Sunday in University Park, Pa.

"Getting some rest is important for our team," coach Amanda Butler said.

### UF Women's Basketball

"We've got some people that have been playing really

hard minutes down the stretch. Just getting them off their feet and letting them have an extra couple days is crucial for us.

"We'll have an opportunity to get some skill-work in, do some things we don't typically have a chance to do during conference play."

This season, the SEC featured four ranked teams at season's end: No. 3 Tennessee, No. 8 South Carolina, No. 10 Kentucky and No. 15 Texas A&M. Tennessee and South Carolina are both top seeds. Florida went 2-4 against these teams.

But playing in the nation's toughest conference should prove to be beneficial for the Gators, who are set to embark on their first journey to the NCAA Tournament since 2011-2012.

"I think it's a huge advantage," Butler said. "We have to make it important. I think it's a huge advantage to know, basically, what we've experienced since January certainly can't be any tougher. I think it's a great confidence builder for our team knowing that we've been in a lot of battles already that seem NCAA tournament-like."

The last time Florida was invited to the dance, it beat then-No. 16 Ohio State 70-65 in the first round.

During the second round, eventual NCAA champion Baylor creamed Florida 76-57.

**SEE WHOOPS, PAGE 15**



Amanda O'Leary and the UF lacrosse team takes on Dartmouth tonight. [Read the story online at alligatorSports.org.](#)

### Gators named to USA Team

Florida volleyball players Simone Antwi, Alex Holston and Gabby Mallette were named to the USA Volleyball Collegiate National Team on Monday. The team will tour Europe from July 8-19.

### Gators in the NBA

Former UF center Joakim Noah scored nine points, recorded 12 rebounds and notched nine assists in the Chicago's 97-85 loss to Oklahoma City on Monday.

# Former Gators work out for NFL scouts at Pro Scout Day

**MORGAN MORIARTY**

Alligator Writer @Morgan\_Moriarty

Soggy, windy and chilly conditions did not stop the chance for former Gators to make their NFL dreams a reality. Monday marked UF's Pro Scout Day, and general managers and scouts from all 32 NFL teams were in attendance to watch 12 former UF players.

Having all NFL teams represented encouraged coach Will Muschamp, who uses Pro Day as a barometer to measure the status of his program.

"To have that turnout after the year we had it tells you we've got some good players in the program," Muschamp said. "Obviously, [it was] an extremely frustrating and disappointing fall, and that's on me."

Defensive backs Loucheiz Purifoy and Marcus Roberson were among the hopefuls who had underwhelming 40-yard dash times at the NFL Combine in February. But there was a silver lining — Muschamp says most scouts look deeper than what the raw numbers show when evaluating defensive backs.

"Those guys play a lot faster than they're going to run the 40," Muschamp said. "A lot of the coaches and the comments I get from a lot of the scouts is that these guys play a lot faster than what their times are. At the end of the day they're going to watch the tape, and that's what matters."

Defensive lineman Dominique Easley — who suffered an ACL tear in September 2013 — did not work out on Monday, but Muschamp announced a tentative date of April 18 for him to work in front of scouts in Gainesville.

Standout wide receiver Solomon Patton finally got the opportunity to work out in front of scouts on Monday, as well. He unofficially clocked in the 4.25-4.3 range in his last 40-yard dash.

Patton did not get invited to the combine — something that he said was a letdown — but it allowed him time to work on certain aspects of his game.

"It was real disappointing," he said. "When you grow up, that's all you want to do all your life — go to the combine. I didn't get invited, but it gave me a longer time to get better and work harder and I feel like I definitely got better."

Offensive lineman Jon Halapio also got to perform drills for NFL teams Monday. Some teams have been wary of Florida's veteran lineman due to the torn pectoral muscle he suffered before the 2013 season. Halapio said he was excited to show scouts that the injury was a thing of the past.

"I wanted to prove that I was still strong, prove that I'm not injured anymore," Halapio said. "I think I did pretty well with my bench numbers."

Halapio recorded 32 reps at 225 pounds.

Linebacker Ronald Powell got the chance to further improve his stock as well. Although Powell is excited to take the next step in his football career, he said UF will always hold a special place in his heart.

"I miss everything about this place right now," Powell said. "It's not an easy place to leave, and it's definitely some place that's in my heart. I can't tell you what I won't miss about this place because I'm missing a whole lot of things."



Adam Lichtenstein / Alligator Staff

Former Gators defensive back Loucheiz Purifoy catches a throw during a drill at Florida's Pro Scout Day on Monday. Purifoy is projected to be a first-round pick in May's NFL Draft.

## Former UF players at Pro Day

**DB** Jeremy Brown

**WR** Trey Burton

**OL** Jon Halapio

**OL** Jon Harrison

**DL** Damien Jacobs

**LB** Darrin Kitchens

**OL** Kyle Koehne

**WR** Solomon Patton

**LB** Ronald Powell

**DB** Loucheiz Purifoy

**DB** Marcus Roberson

**DB** Jaylen Watkins

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 - Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), American folklorist, and author

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# Florida has three players who were on 2012 tournament team

## WHOOPS, from page 13

Players from that team who still remain include redshirt junior Kayla Lewis, senior Jaterra Bonds and redshirt senior Lily Svete.

Those players will take an increased role as guides attempting to navigate their team through the uncharted waters of the NCAA Tournament, unfamiliar ground for most of the Gators.

"All year long, we've relied on our leaders, our upperclassmen Jaterra, Lily and Kayla, in particular, who have got more basketball experience underneath their belt, whether it's SEC experience or post-season experience," Butler said.

"I would expect those guys to continue to do what they've done, be strong voices, model the type of work and attitude that it's going to take for us to continue to be successful and extend our season."

Before the season, Florida was projected to finish 10th in the SEC, according to the preseason coaches' poll.

The Gators ended up fifth in the conference.

"It was a slap in the face to our

upperclassmen, in particular," Butler said.

An X-factor has also emerged for Florida in redshirt sophomore Cassie Peoples.

Peoples has shown a stoic demeanor and a consistent style of play.

Although her offensive numbers weren't glowing this season, the numbers she posted in the SEC Tournament may be a sign of better things to come.

"Cassie's a great player," Butler said.

"I think she's one of the best point guards in the country, especially young point guards. She wants to win, she's a competitor and she has great confidence in her game."

"Her teammates have great confidence in her, so there was never a point where she stops shooting or anyone wanted her to stop shooting."

In the SEC Tournament, she shot a combined 10 of 20 from the field including a 7-for-11 clip from beyond the arc.

Continue reading this story online at [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Cassie Peoples drives down the court during Florida's 81-76 loss to Missouri on Feb. 20 in the O'Connell Center. Florida will play sixth-seeded Dayton in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday.

# Donovan says team needs to shoot free throws proficiently

## HOOPS, from page 13

stuff that clearly is not going to happen. So what we'll end up doing is looking at some things that we could get better at and then on Tuesday night whenever that game's done, we'll basically give them a first look at whatever team it is we're playing."

Without a certain opponent, Donovan said his team in practice would focus on

cleaning up areas of its game it struggled with in Atlanta — most specifically free-throw shooting.

Missed free throws almost doomed UF on Sunday in its conference championship matchup against UK, and its charity-stripe woes were prevalent all weekend. Against Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky last weekend, Florida shot 27 of 54 from the foul line.

In the second half of their game against

the Wildcats, the Gators made only 1 of their 4 free-throw attempts.

"We've got to do a better job there," Donovan said. "We were doing really, really well for a while there. One of the things that happened is we did work on it some, but we've got to spend more time on that. That has to be an emphasis and focal point for us."

Donovan believes his players will handle the short span of preparation well. They've

done so in the past with Thursday-Saturday turnarounds during SEC play.

"Our guys are accustomed to that," he said.

"That's what's really going to end up happening if you're fortunate enough to move on and advance — you're dealing with a one day prep even going into the next game. So right now, we've got two days here [Monday] and [today] to try and make some improvements in ourselves."

# Junior gymnast wearing walking boot to help sore ankles

## GYM, from page 13

Faehn said the overall health of the team is the best she could ask for.

"The key for them, and what we've done, is try to pace them the whole year," Faehn said. "Let them rest when they needed to rest, start them out slower so that they're feeling their freshest right now."

Junior Rachel Spicer was spotted wearing a boot on her right leg after competing in three events against Missouri on Friday.

"She just has sore ankles and so whenever we travel or whatnot we always just put her in a boot, that's a really common practice ... just to keep them from continually using that so it gives them a little bit of a break," Faehn said. "That's the biggest thing for her. When we have had those opportunities throughout the season to rest her, we did so."

Spicer competed vault and balance beam at every regular season meet this year and she

competed floor, a notoriously tough event on a gymnasts' feet, at all but two meets.

Senior Mackenzie Caquatto has also taken a few breaks from floor this season. She competed floor at five of Florida's 10 regular season meets. In the Missouri meet, which Faehn said would be the debut of Florida's postseason lineup, Caquatto competed vault (9.875), uneven bars (9.925) and balance beam (9.925). Faehn said she doesn't think Caquatto will compete all-around this weekend.

"As of right now, the lineups, we're looking for those to be just like they were at Missouri," Faehn said.

The Gators face a quick turnaround with just two training days plus a walkthrough practice on Wednesday before a Thursday travel day.

"Knowing that where we are right now physically and mentally as a team, it's a different team than the beginning of the season," Faehn said.



Rachel Crosby / Alligator Staff

Rachel Spicer performs a floor routine during Florida's 197.525-196.025 win against Arkansas on Feb. 14 in the O'Connell Center. Spicer has competed in vault and balance beam at every meet this season.

# Disappointing finish at nationals ends Florida's indoor season

## Men and women came in third

LAWRENCE LAGUNA

Alligator Writer

@LagunaLawrence

There was not anyone coach Mike Holloway wanted to blame for the sub-par National Indoor Championships performance other than himself.

The Gators entered the championships as the top-ranked teams in the nation and could have become the first program to sweep the men's and women's titles since 2008, but they fell well short of that.

Instead, UF had to settle for two third-place finishes.

"As the head coach of the program, I have

to put this one on my shoulders," Holloway said.

"I have to get back to Gainesville, figure some things out and make sure this doesn't happen again."

Florida dodged a penalty at the Southeastern Conference Championships in the women's 4x400-relay, which gave UF the title. But the UF men couldn't avoid a mishap at nationals, costing them a chance to finish runner-up.

Florida sprinter Dedric Dukes and Texas A&M's Gregory Coleman collided on the final turn of their 400-meter leg, causing Dukes to fall to the outer lanes and Coleman to drop the baton.

UF (impeded penalty) and TAMU (un-sportsmanlike penalty) were both disqualified, leaving the Gators no chance at gaining points during the men's last event.

### UF Track

The women shared a similar fate.

Because point-leader Georgia did not have anyone competing in the 4x4, Florida had a chance to wrap up a women's title in the final event.

Florida finished last, allowing Oregon and Texas to jump above them in team standings.

After owning what seemed to be the entire indoor season, the Gators fell to a nadir they are not used to and concluded the indoor campaign on a stale note.

Most teams would be satisfied with a podium finish and leaving the heat of competi-

tion with some hardware, but Holloway and his program aren't used to getting third place.

They expect better.

"I suppose a lot of people would be happy or satisfied with two top-three teams in the country," Holloway said. "But that's not what we're about."

"We're going to get back to work and get higher on that podium next time."

Luckily for Florida, the Gators have a natural shot at redemption — the outdoor season, which begins Friday.

"At the end of the day, we have to find a way to make sure we flip that switch so our passion and intensity and pride will be better," Holloway said.

"We can't go backward. We have to move forward."

## BASEBALL

# Gators' offense struggles in first SEC series of 2014

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Alligator Staff Writer @alichtenstein24

The Gators could not buy runs against the Razorbacks.

Although Florida (13-7, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) won its first conference series, it came on the back of strong pitching, not from an offensive surge.

"We hit a lot of balls hard," coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "I know we only scored six runs, but [the offense] was better than six runs."

One- and two-run outings were enough for the Gators in the first two games, but they showed their need for better hitting in Game 3, when they fell behind 4-0 in the first two innings and could not make up the difference.

"I felt like we swung the bats pretty good," catcher Braden Mattson said.

Hitting is not going to get any easier for Florida. Up next

on the schedule is No. 2 Florida State (17-2, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which Florida plays tonight at 7 at McKethan Stadium. The Seminoles boast a staff ERA of 2.69.

The staff numbers do not bode well for the Gators' offense, which hit .200 with runners on base against the Razorbacks on Sunday.

"I felt like we were maybe one at-bat away from getting right back in this thing," O'Sullivan said.

However, Florida will likely benefit from the return of one of its best hitters.

Outfielder Harrison Bader, who missed 19 games after being suspended following a scooter accident and DUI investigation, returned to the lineup on Sunday and went 2 for 4. Despite the two hits, he did not have an RBI.

"Physically and everything,

I was prepared," Bader said. "I've been working hard. I've been getting at-bats and stuff like that."

In order to drive in those crucial runs, Florida needs its top-of-the-order hitters to go back to their hitting ways. Both Richie Martin and Casey Turgeon went 0 for 4 at the plate. The hitters who followed — Bader and designated hitter Taylor Gushue — had two hits apiece but no RBIs.

But there might be a silver lining. Although the Seminole's staff is strong, the Gators might have been lucky enough to draw a weak link.

FSU starting pitcher Peter Miller, who posted a 3.66 ERA in 33 appearances during his first three seasons at Florida State, has struggled early in the 2014 campaign.

Continue reading this story online at [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Taylor Gushue bats during Florida's 1-0 win against Arkansas on Saturday at McKethan Stadium. UF went 3 for 15 with runners on base in its 9-3 loss Sunday.

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