

# the independent florida alligator

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Karsten Whitson pitched well in Florida's 3-1 home loss to Jacksonville on Tuesday. Read the story on page 27.



VOLUME 108 ISSUE 143

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

## Officer's daughter calls out ASO Video alleges mishandling

KELCEE GRIFFIS

Alligator Staff Writer kgrieffis@alligator.org

A UF student alleges that a case she and her parents were involved in was mishandled, and she's turned to YouTube to tell her story.

Hope Stevens, a UF agricultural operations management freshman, posted a video Tuesday night regarding an incident that happened at her family's home April 4. In the video filmed from her Buckman dorm room, she said her case was minimized by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office because her

father, Todd Stevens, is an officer with the force.

Stevens, 19, said it all started when she went to her parents' home in the 400 block of Southwest 117th Street. They were meeting to talk about school. She told her parents that classes weren't going well, and maybe UF wasn't the path for her.

In the video, she chokes up and begins sobbing as she tells her story.

Stevens said her parents told her she needed to talk to a counselor, and she agreed. But she realized her par-



Stevens

ents wouldn't let her go back to her dorm room. She said she felt trapped and wanted to leave. After calling a friend to pick her up and walking toward the door, Stevens said

her father grabbed her wrist, took her phone and yelled, "No, you're not going anywhere."

Her mother called 911 and told dispatch that her daughter was suicidal.

Her mom stood in the way, and Stevens tried to get around her. That's

SEE OFFICER, PAGE 4



Kristi Camara / Alligator

### Baby Bill Nyes

Engineering ambassador Fernando Barroso teaches Baby Gators about fluid density using soap, honey and water on Tuesday. EA and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics hosted an activity day at the preschool.

## UF Police warns students to watch their stuff during finals

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer jlyons@alligator.org

In light of a series of thefts on campus, University Police is advising students to keep an eye on their belongings as finals approach.

Electronic devices such as laptops, tablets and cellphones are being targeted, UPD spokesman Maj.

Brad Barber said. Officers first noticed the series in March, but UPD has no suspects at this point.

"These thefts have predominantly been thefts of opportunity with individuals who have left personal belongings unattended," he said.

Several on-campus buildings have been affected, including Mar-

"The thefts have predominantly been thefts of opportunity . . ."

Brad Barber  
UPD spokesman

ston Science Library, the Computer Science Engineering Building and Library West.

UF history senior Skye Schmelzer

said she's at Library West every day and never heard about the thefts. The 21-year-old said she's always with a friend or asks someone to watch her stuff.

UPD released a safety notice regarding the thefts on its Facebook page Tuesday afternoon. The department advises students to regis-

ter their electronic devices with the department. Also, the post recommended installing a Front Door laptop security system to help disable a laptop if it is stolen, the release states.

UPD encourages everyone to report suspicious persons or activity by calling 352-392-1111.

### Today



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### Santa Fe College LGBTQ rule up for approval again

The college's Career Service Council rejected it twice, pg 9.

### UF alumna porn star takes stage name from UF professor

Clay Calvert taught Casey Calvert law, pg 15.



### Turlington Plaza preacher shares word of God, his life

Junior has preached to Gators for 32 years, pg 5.



# News Today

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Spring Greening

Green your spring cleaning at Sustainable UF's annual Collection Day today from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center parking lot near Gate 1. Students, faculty and staff are invited to drop off unwanted items including school supplies, books, gently used clothing, household items, personal hazardous materials and electronic waste. Additionally, UF departments can donate university assets or IT equipment (with approved paperwork). Items will be donated to organizations including Tools for Schools, Haven Hospice and Better World Books. Hazardous or electronic waste will be taken to the Alachua County Hazardous Waste Collection Center for safe, proper disposal. For more information, visit [sustainable.ufl.edu/collection](http://sustainable.ufl.edu/collection) or [Facebook.com/sustainableUF](https://www.facebook.com/sustainableUF).

### Authors@UF

Judith W. Page, director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, will discuss her work on gardens in literature and art, and read from the just released paperback edition of "Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870." The event, presented by the George A. Smathers Libraries, will be today at 3 p.m. in Smathers Library, Room 100. For more information, see [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/authorsuf](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/authorsuf).

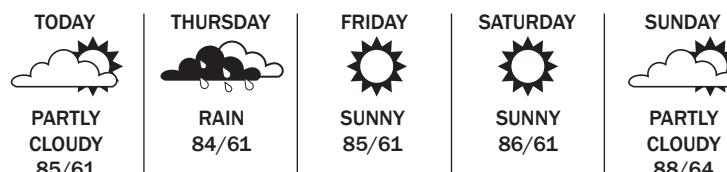
### ITA3500 Students Present: A Night with Pirandello

Interested in Italian language, culture and theater? Join the students of ITA3500 as they bring to life three one-act plays by Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello. Students will be performing the plays "La Morsa (The Vise)," "L'Altro Figlio (The Other Son)" and "La Patente (The License)" — all in Italian, but with English subtitles. The event will take place on today in the Florida Gym, Room 220. Admission is free, but please arrive by 7:10 p.m.

### Social Hour at Beaty Towers

Interested in hands-on internship and job opportunities? Want to network with students who are passionate about building their own business? Talk to an astrobiologist, a biotech entrepreneur, director for a nonprofit microfinance company in Tanzania, NASA evangelist and pet food delivery entrepreneur! See a real 3-D printer in action. Come out to our Pre-Startup Hour event at Beaty Commons from 6:15

## FORECAST



to 7:20 p.m. on Thursday.

### Beatles cover band

The Impostors will perform Beatles music and other eclectic selections at the Unified Training Center, 809 W. University Ave., Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.

### Leadership position available:

#### Advertising chair

Do you love human rights? Would you like to be involved in leading the UF chapter of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning grassroots activist organization, Amnesty International? The UFAI board is currently seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic students to join it in taking UFAI to another level of campus awareness next semester. It is looking for an advertising chair whose work will increase campus outreach through social media, fliers, etc. Experience with Photoshop and Adobe is a plus, but not required — the only requirement is a passion and love for human rights. If you are interested, please send your resume and a short paragraph (250 words or fewer) about why you would be a good fit to [novoa.cf@ufl.edu](mailto:novoa.cf@ufl.edu).

### Hippodrome Cinema offers additional student ticket discounts

The Hippodrome State Theatre's Cinema is now offering additional student and senior pricing for all of its regularly scheduled shows. Admission for students with valid IDs is \$5.50. In the past, the Hippodrome has offered \$5.50 pricing for students and seniors on only Sundays and Wednesdays. The cinema is located inside the Hippodrome at 25 SE Second Place. For a complete listing of films, visit [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org).

### Restoring Bambooville

A group of students is working to present a formal proposal to the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee as well as the Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee to bring back Bambooville. To help, find the Facebook page Restore Bambooville or contact Elliot Larkin at [Larkin@ufl.edu](mailto:Larkin@ufl.edu) or Nick Chrone at

[NChrone@ufl.edu](mailto:NChrone@ufl.edu). Also, sign the petition on Change.org.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Bieber seeks delay in DUI trial

MIAMI — Justin Bieber is seeking a delay in his trial currently scheduled to begin next month on Florida charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

The 20-year-old pop singer's lawyers filed a motion Monday saying they need more time to prepare their case. Bieber's trial is set for May 5 in Miami.

The motion says prosecutors do not oppose a delay. A scheduling hearing is set for Wednesday.

Bieber was arrested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police described as an illegal street drag race. He wasn't charged with drag racing.

Alcohol breath tests found Bieber's level below the 0.02 limit for underage drivers. Urine tests showed the presence of marijuana and an anti-anxiety drug in his system.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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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](mailto:editor@alligator.org).

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**CRIME**

# UF football player Purifoy's law run-in sparks GPD investigation

**JENNA LYONS**

Alligator Staff Writer

jlyons@alligator.org

Gainesville Police began an investigation Friday to determine if the department had any involvement gathering information to quash a warrant for the arrest of former UF football player Loucheiz Purifoy.

On March 18, Alachua County Sheriff's deputies commanded the arrest of the 21-year-old on charges of marijuana possession and synthetic narcotic possession, according to an ASO warrant affidavit.

At about 11:30 p.m., a deputy on foot patrol confronted Pu-



rifoy because marijuana smoke was coming out of the car he was in. When the deputy approached Purifoy, who was in the driver's seat, Purifoy was holding a blunt, according to the warrant.

A search of the car revealed two bags with about 0.7 grams of bath salts, according to the warrant. During questioning, Purifoy told officers he thought he had bought molly.

Purifoy made a motion to quash the warrant April 16, giv-

ing the following reasons:

He stated he retained counsel, has no prior significant history and has no prior instances of failing to appear to court dates. In addition, Purifoy said he will make himself available to law enforcement and will waive his right to a speedy trial.

Chief Assistant State Attorney Jeanne Singer was consulted about the motion and did not object, according to court documents. The arrest warrant was canceled the next day.

Gainesville Police spokesman Officer Ben Tobias said Sheriff Sadie Darnell reached out to GPD Chief Tony Jones to look into the matter.

## Official report says Stevens' father restrained her for her safety

**OFFICER**, from page 1

when, she said, her father kneed her in the back and slammed her head into the door and wall. She said she passed out.

When an officer responded, she said he had her sit in the back of the patrol car for about a half an hour while he talked to her parents inside. Then he drove her to the end of the neighborhood to meet an ambulance. She said medical help should have been called immediately instead.

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## CAMPUS

# Turlington Plaza preacher shares word of God, his life

ZACHARY PETERSON

Alligator Contributing Writer

He'd said his morning prayers, assembled his plastic cross. He'd staked out his usual spot near the bus stop. He'd been spit at, and it wasn't even noon.

Now, it was time for salvation.

A bell rang. Students flooded out of classrooms, filling UF's Turlington Plaza. Junior Lofton, 73, gripped his cross and shuffled into the crowd.

"Friends!" he shouted. "There's two roads: one to Heaven, one to Hell. Which one are you on?"

"I'm on both," one man joked, walking away.

Junior wiped sweat from his brow.

For 32 years, the preacher says, he's been pointing students to Christ because he wants them to avoid a path that nearly ruined his life.

"How about you?" Junior asked another student. "Are you born again?"

"I got class, man."

Junior turned to someone else. "What about you, young lady?"

No reply.

"What if you died before class started?" he called to no one in particular.

"Then I won't have to pay my rent!" someone yelled back.

■ ■ ■

Street preaching isn't easy.

In January, a visiting preacher walked onto Turlington Plaza and screamed for three hours. One student stood next to him holding a sign that read: "NOT A CHRISTIAN, JUST A DICK."

In February, another preacher roared near the classrooms. A 26-year-old student slapped him in the face.

Three days a week, Junior shuffles through the plaza.

He smiles but never takes no for an answer. He hands out business cards that say "Jesus Saves." He compares anything red to a communist — except his Bible. He reveres Republican politicians like Sen. Marco Rubio and U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan: "Good, decent people you can trust." He believes no human is born to be a homosexual.

"I'm not trying to win a popularity contest," he shrugged.

■ ■ ■

When Junior was 3, his father, James, died from pneumonia, leaving behind a wife and five children.

The family squeezed into a three-bedroom place in east Gainesville. The children slept on pasteboard boxes or huddled in two quilts. There was no air conditioning. You stood on the porch if "you wanted to catch a breeze."

To support her family, Ethel Lofton worked seven days a week at restaurants, diners, a nearby military camp during World War II. She picked oranges and sold the juice in one-gallon bottles on campus. Cut. Flip. Squeeze. Repeat.

With his mother busy, Junior found trouble.

At 13, he took his first drink from a jug of moonshine. By 16, he was addicted to alcohol. Because Alachua was a dry county during the 1950s, Junior said he and his friends spent

their days learning where bootleggers dropped off moonshine, then stole from them at night.

During high school, his thoughts turned to conquests: "How many women could I sleep with?"

Instead of college, Junior did roof tiling. In the evenings, he'd cruise around with buddies in sports cars, searching for pretty girls and drinking homebrew.

Soon, Junior earned a reputation for boozing and womanizing. But alone, he wept.

In his 20s, Junior suffered from night terrors. He woke up panting, sweating through the sheets.

Eventually, he sought help for his drinking. From family to friends, the advice never changed: "You just quit."

■ ■ ■

It's early morning on Turlington Plaza.

Junior leans on his cross. A short woman with thick, black hair stands next to him — his wife, Debbie, 60.

The couple met more than 40 years ago.

Junior was teaching an adult Bible-studies class at Windsor Baptist Church, about 20 minutes outside Gainesville. Debbie Nobles was one of his students. She was 14.

When Junior first saw her, he thought she was beautiful — and the thought spooked him. After class, he hopped in his pickup and prayed while speeding home.

Two years later, Junior and Debbie started dating.

They biked around the city of Windsor and fished on weekends. Her parents were uncomfortable. Junior was going on 30, and Debbie wasn't legally an adult. "But they saw that we were serious," Debbie recalled, "and did finally give us their blessing."

A few months later, they married June 21, 1970, beneath a giant oak tree in Windsor. Debbie was 16.

They raised four children over nearly 44 years: Delbert, 50; Tamara, 40; Lance, 35; and Pamela, 31.

Debbie thinks her husband is misunderstood.

"He's here preaching because he loves people so much," she said. "We're not the kind of people who force religion."

■ ■ ■

The day Junior came to Christ, he didn't know a single Bible verse. It was April 1967, and he was lying in bed after a night of heavy drinking.

Sunlight leaked through the blinds. The 27-year-old slowly opened his eyes but couldn't sit up for fear of getting sick.

His clock radio buzzed, and a preacher's voice filled the room.

"Jesus can give you peace. If you don't have peace, he can give it to you..."

Junior groaned. Too much noise.

He groped for the off button, but when he tried to sit up, his skull throbbed.

The voice talked about two roads in life — the broad and narrow. "Where are you heading?" the preacher asked.

Junior didn't try to pretend. Nights were spent on booze and women. Days were spent recovering. He had recently split with his first wife and was learning to care

for Delbert, their son.

When a lover crawled into bed and started whispering in Junior's ear, the realization washed over him. He wanted a pure life with Jesus.

He told her about his desire for transformation, but she just glared, tears forming in her huckleberry-blue eyes.

"Your friends told me you would do this," she said. "They told me you would leave me."

For two hours, Junior sat still at the foot of the bed, cradling his head.

Then he walked into the shower and scrubbed himself clean. He was born again.

■ ■ ■

Nearly 50 years since his conversion, Junior's skin is wrinkly and white. His voice is gravelly, as though someone wore it down with sandpaper. His muddy eyes sit behind golden-brown frames.

Junior's still a handsome man. His shoulders fill out collared shirts, and his silver hair is combed to the right. His back hurts, but not enough to keep him from preaching. The prostate cancer he suffered from two years ago would have kept him away for good, but he beat it.

Junior stayed optimistic after accepting Christ, but his struggles didn't end.

On November 29, 1979, he beat his wife, according to Alachua County court records. Five days later, Junior pled no contest to spouse battery. A judge ruled him guilty, and he was sentenced to seven days in county jail.

Junior said he never hurt Debbie, "Otherwise, we wouldn't still be together."

He said this is what happened: He and Debbie went over to a friend's house in Windsor. The group discussed "life and religion."

Alcohol wasn't involved. Conversation turned to argument. A cop was called. "It wasn't a big deal."

Junior said he only spent two days in prison. The third day, he was released.

One afternoon on the plaza, he raised a finger and pretended to touch someone's hand. "If you do this," he mocked, "it's battery."

■ ■ ■

Service was about to start at the Church at Orange Heights. Women dumped out coolers and scraped off dinner plates. The sun set across the steeple.

For 11 years, Junior's been attending the Hawthorne-based ministry. During a recent service, he walked into the sanctuary and sat alone in the back.

Junior waved at a friend, shook a hand. A single word flashed across the screen: "FELLOWSHIP!"

Junior pointed excitedly at the stage. "That's my wife there in the choir!" he shouted over the crowd.

As the opening bars of "Amazing Grace" floated across the room, Junior rose slowly with the congregation.

He sang to himself, hands clasped, eyes clenched. Voices thundered around him:

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...."

In three decades street preaching in Gainesville, Junior said he hasn't saved anyone. But here, in his quiet center of faith, he was confident.

When the congregation reached "that saved a wretch like me," Junior's right hand shot up, waving side to side. His voice rose higher with the chorus of believers.

"Yes, Lord!" he shouted. "Yes!"

■ ■ ■

Junior and Debbie live in Windsor in a trailer-sized home five minutes from the church where they met. The place sits behind a swing-

ing gate at the end of a country road. It has a front porch for Junior's crosses and a back porch for bird watching.

The field, framed by trees, stretches in all directions. A wooden playground sits next to the house. The couple has 14 grandchildren with a 15th on the way, and they visit often.

Junior calls this wooded sanctuary his "R&R" from the war zone on campus. But even here, the preacher tries to save souls.

In early April, Junior hosted a father-son church event. The men were going to teach the boys to shoot rifles.

Six hanging targets were perched on a dirt mound by the backyard pond.

"Is the line ready?" a man called out.

A string of young boys lying on their bellies nodded their heads. Fathers sat behind the smallest ones to help balance their shots.

"Fire!"

Six rifles boomed in the air. Targets bobbed, struck. Wild bullets kicked up dirt.

Junior sat under a canopy by the house, smiling.

A teenager wearing glasses walked by. "He doesn't have a father," Junior muttered.

Junior called to the boy. "How did you do?"

"I did all right," he replied, handing over his target.

Junior examined the sheet, his eyes widening.

"This is good, good, good, good," he marveled.

The boy's older brother walked up. Junior was equally impressed with his shooting. He promised both brothers they would all go hunting soon.

Then he asked, "Do you guys have a relationship with Christ?"



Junior Lofton, a Christian preacher, talks to a group of pro-Israeli protesters and students. Lofton, 73, has been preaching to students for 32 years and typically visits Turlington Plaza three days a week.

Alligator File Photo

# Opinions

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014  
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Sweat, tears and tacos: The editor's story

It's freshman year, and I'm walking along University Avenue, worrying that I'm too sweaty to go into the Alligator's open house. My resume is in a purple folder stuffed with clips from my high school newspaper. I don't know what AP Style is.

Fast forward. It's finals week 2011, and I'm standing outside Library West in the dark on the phone with Clare Lennon. She's asking if I want to be a staff writer. The December air is cold, but I feel warm.

Suddenly, it's the day after my second obituary was published, the one I cried while writing, and the widow is calling me. I pick up, and she tells me she loved the story so much she saved 30 copies.

Then it's the middle of the night, and Christian Aguilar's body has just been found. Without hesitation, I call Chris Alcantara and open Google Docs. The article is online 10 minutes later, even though I'm still in pajamas.

Soon after, it's the day of the 40-degree Tiffany Sessions press conference, and my co-workers are pitching the insane idea of writing a 2,500-word feature story in three hours. I'm so exhausted and so excited I'm agreeing.

Time flies when you're having fun, and I've had a blast at The Independent Florida Alligator. I've written 164 stories about other people, but here's mine — in pieces, like you're flipping through the pages of a newspaper trying to find what to read.

My Alligator story includes tough times, like when Unite Party trashed our papers and when I spelled "students" wrong on the front page.

But it also has great times, like when I stacked 18 tacos from Tijuana Flats in my Sable for the staff's dinner.

Or the three times I set fires in the office — one on purpose, two accidental.

Or when Bernie Machen kicked me. (On purpose. It was playful. I think.)

At the Alligator, I've laughed and cried and yelled and worked 60-hour weeks and answered questions and napped on my office couch and called sources and drank Icees and rapped and gotten my hair fishtailed and wrote my heart out.

It's unusual to be editor-in-chief for two semesters, but my time in the newsroom — with its weird bamboo walls, broken chairs and inappropriate Wall of Shame — has been the best part of my story so far. Not to mention the characters: dozens of extremely talented journalists I get to call friends.

So, it's a few hours from now, and I'm passing the pages in the final issue. I'm nervous, as always, about how they'll turn out, but deep down I know they're fine. I'm turning out the lights in the newsroom, packing up and walking out of work at 1105 W. University Ave. one last time.

And here's the kicker: I'm ready for my next chapter.

Julia Glum is a graduating UF journalism senior and the editor-in-chief of the Alligator.

## Reader response

No question today — just a sincere thank you for reading.

Tuesday's question: Have you ever driven while drunk?

51% YES  
49% NO  
90 TOTAL VOTES

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

Julia Glum  
EDITOR

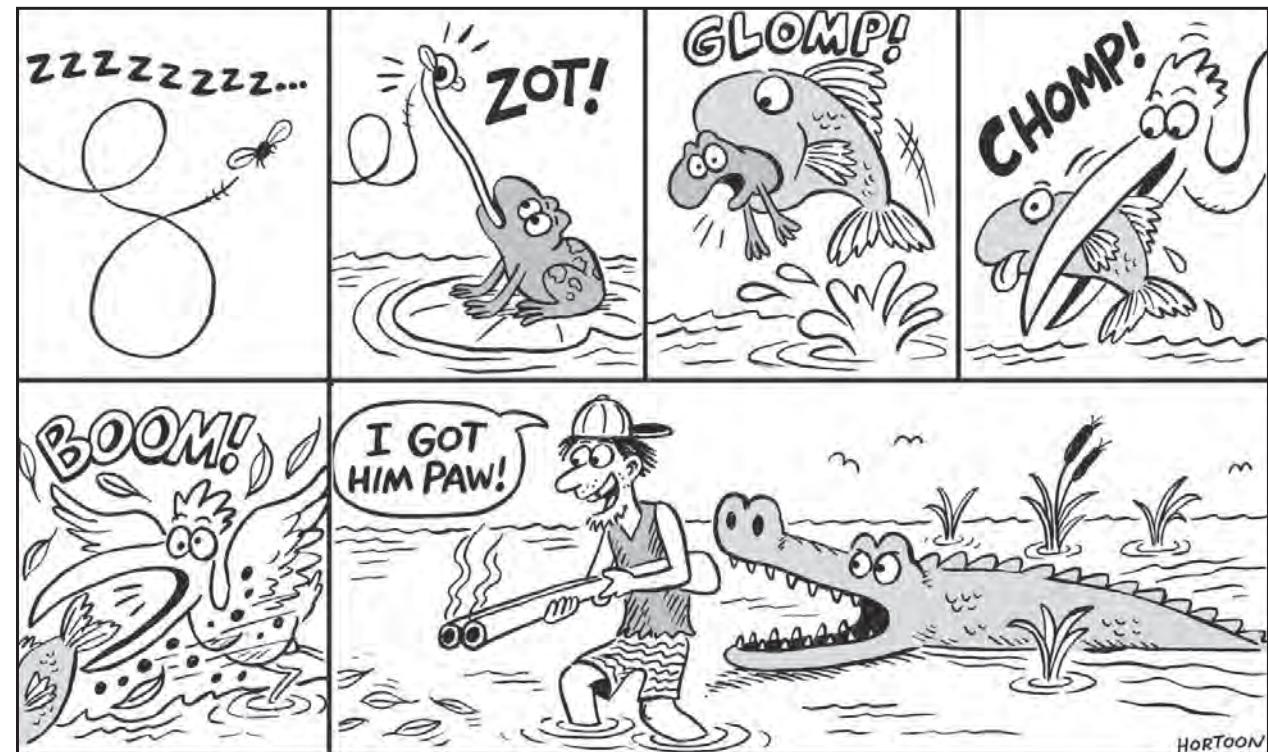
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Katherine Kallergis  
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Chloe Finch  
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the independent florida  
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to [opinions@alligator.org](mailto:opinions@alligator.org), bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257.

Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 352-376-4458.



## Column

### I'm confused, and it's the newspaper's fault

There have been plenty of times in the past four years I've woken up confused.

That first morning in Germany after I decided to study abroad without Googling the city I was moving to.

That time I fell asleep tailgating on the plaza because 8 a.m. is never OK.

Those Friday mornings post-Penny Wine (R.I.P.) when I somehow ended up safe in my bed.

And this week, when I realized the days at my mouse-less Alligator computer were dwindling.

The first time I came to the office, I hobbled in on heels my professor convinced me were necessary only to find a room full of bearded hipsters screaming profanities in between bites of pizza.

I never thought I'd be at the paper until Thursday night turned into Friday morning, surrounded by people I trust with my life, fighting over commas, worried about words I didn't write, feeling lucky to be there and knowing I should be.

The Alligator and I have had our ups and downs. I've cried in the office and because of it — most notably into a Taco Bell chicken soft taco, lost on the way to interview some Girl Scouts.

But somewhere in the middle of the bamboo-covered walls of a building that's only changed minimally from the '70s, I found myself.

If you do one thing in college (and please don't, because these stories need to last you a lifetime of first dates and lunches with your boss' significant other), it's this: Find your happiness, y'all.

I've spoken to a lot of people in the past four years — because a) I never shut my mouth and b) journalism — and a scary number of them don't love what they're doing.

Don't major in accounting because your dad said so. Don't decide on pre-med because it's stable. Hell, don't

choose journalism because it's what your mom did.

I'm going to be straight with you: Figuring out your life takes leaving the house and putting in the work. I would be a tragedy without Netflix. The \$10 Wal-Mart blanket I bought on a whim has gotten me through some times.

But I am who I am because of the Alligator.

Because of the stupid headlines I wrote. Because of the stories I didn't want to cover. Because of the hours I spent hanging around the office when I didn't have to but couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

And most of all, because of the people.

People who have seen me at my best and my worst, who accept me no matter how many times I meow at them in greeting or call something "a lot," who have taught me what it takes to be a good journalist — and person.

This is what I wish for you: Find a path that feels right even when it sucks.

You'll get rejected. You'll get hurt. You'll debate whether you should drown your sorrows in ice cream or tequila, and one hazy night, decide on both.

But it's there. I promise.

When I got to Gainesville, I was a reluctant Gator at best.

And now, here I am, sitting at my desk in the apartment I barely see (love you, 202), sobbing because it's really the end.

It's not a glamorous life, but I wouldn't want it any other way.

And it's this damn newspaper's fault.

Shayna Posse is a graduating UF journalism senior and the Alligator's freelance editor.

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

## Column

# Embrace conflict, stories: Managing editor says fond farewell to the Alligator, college



**Kelcee Griffis**  
kgriffis@alligator.org

I'll probably never forget the Fourth of July last year: I was stuck on a pontoon boat under a bridge in a lightning storm.

My family, best friends and I were soaked and freezing, but we sat huddled together and laughed hysterically.

I think about that day a lot.

After four and a half years, two schools, two majors and four jobs, college looks like a kaleidoscope in my rearview mirror.

It's a collage of late nights, coffee, writing on deadline, tears, wondering how I was going to pull XYZ off and somehow pulling it off.

College is hard.

College involves a lot of conflict.

But what I saw on the boat that day, and what I've come to realize during the last two years of working at the Alligator, is that discomfort and conflict are necessary parts of life.

And if doing journalism has taught me anything, it is to embrace the tension.

During my last two years at UF while I've been running around interviewing people and writing headlines and editing things, I've come to look at life like one big story.

As one of my favorite authors Donald Miller explained, writing a story and living well share common elements: conflict, tension, confrontation, uncertainty, climax, resolution.

The conflict is certainly real in a newsroom, or at least it is in ours.

A dimly lit office with broken chairs, patchy Wi-Fi and bamboo-matted walls became the setting for a disorganized epic involving dozens of characters that stretched from 5 p.m. until 1 a.m. every night.

The resolution: getting the paper into the racks and into the hands of students. The climax: seeing someone absorbed in the pages at a bus stop.

I traded all my free evenings and down time to be part of that story because although it was hard, it was worth it.

There's something inspiring about writing and giving it away for free.

We all like resolution.

We like happy endings.

But I think the process along the way that gets us to the ending turns out to be the story after all.

I don't remember how a lot of things in college resolved: the grades I got on assignments I stressed about, the way financial aid fiascos worked out — stuff that seemed so important at the time.

But I do remember steps along the way.

In my rearview mirror, I see the late nights in Library West when my best friend and I stifled laughs so loudly we risked sounding disrespectful.

I see midnight runs to Redbox in cowboy boots and gym clothes when my roommate and I ditched studying.

I see the night two fellow editors decided to dye my hair red and gave me bangs using paper scissors — and it worked.

I see sweating and cheering at football games.

But like I said, that's the view from my rearview mirror now.

As I watch graduation approach over my dashboard, I definitely feel the uncertainty.

I can tell it's probably going to be messy.

But that's nothing new.

I can't predict how this next story is going to turn out, but I know the elements for a good story are there.

Conflict is OK, and uncertainty is healthy.

So here's to good stories, UF: Tell them, and live them.

*Kelcee Griffis is a graduating UF journalism senior and print managing editor of the Alligator.*

# Senate approves Accent, SGP executive positions after debate

## Other candidates did not accept recommendations

**HANNA MARCUS**

Alligator Staff Writer

hmarcus@alligator.org

In the last Student Senate meeting of the Spring semester, senators sparked a controversial debate before approving the Student Government executive branch position recommendations.

Although three senators spoke during

the con portion of the debate, only Sen. Michael Christ voted in opposition to the recommendations.

During the con portion of debate, Sen. Jessica Sullivan and another female senator spoke about the lack of women who had been recommended as agency heads for the executive positions.

Christ voiced his opposition for the Ac-

cent Speaker's Bureau and Student Government Productions agency heads.

Christ said he doesn't doubt the qualifications of the three candidates recommended but said people are bred for these jobs.

"(There are) certain groups on campus that are groomed for these positions. It's not my opinion. It's a fact if you do your own research," he said. "Senate can be intellectually honest with themselves — there's something there when only one person applies for one of the top five most important positions in the Student Government."

Christ also said he didn't agree with the decision to recommend two candidates to co-chair the SGP position.

He said SG was a "wide enigma" to students and didn't feel it was accessible enough.

Sen. Leah Miller spoke during the pro portion of debate and commented on the three candidates' qualifications for each position.

"The people who are up for Accent and SGP have a serious background in both of those agencies," she said. "It's bewildering to me that we are questioning that."

In response to the application accessibility, Sen. Austin Sherman said the positions were open to all students.

He said the positions were well-advertised through emails, publication and

website availability.

"Thousands of students were reached with these applications," he said. "I don't think I need to speak anymore on Accent and SGP because if you read the resumes and you've met the people, they're undoubtedly qualified. There was ample opportunity to apply. Regards to the number of applicants, I don't think that's the best argument because these people care enough to apply."

Student Body President Cory Yeffet, who aided in compiling the list of executive position candidates, said the lack of accessibility to SG was "nonexistent" and that he approved of every recommendation.

"I assure each of you that all 100 percent of these nominations are going to do an incredible job for this Student Body," he said.

Two of the recommended candidates — Michael High for athletics and recreation executive secretary and Destiny Goede for Greek affairs cabinet director — were stricken from the recommendations list before senators voted.

Senate President Dylan Fisher said the candidates contacted the executive board, and due to personal reasons, were unable to accept their recommendations.

In addition to the executive branch approval, senators approved a resolution honoring the victims of the Fort Hood shooting as well as funding for the Graduate Student Council Welcome Week Events and a Ramadan lecture series.



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Student Body President Cory Yeffet speaks about the Student Government executive branch recommendations during Tuesday's Student Senate meeting.

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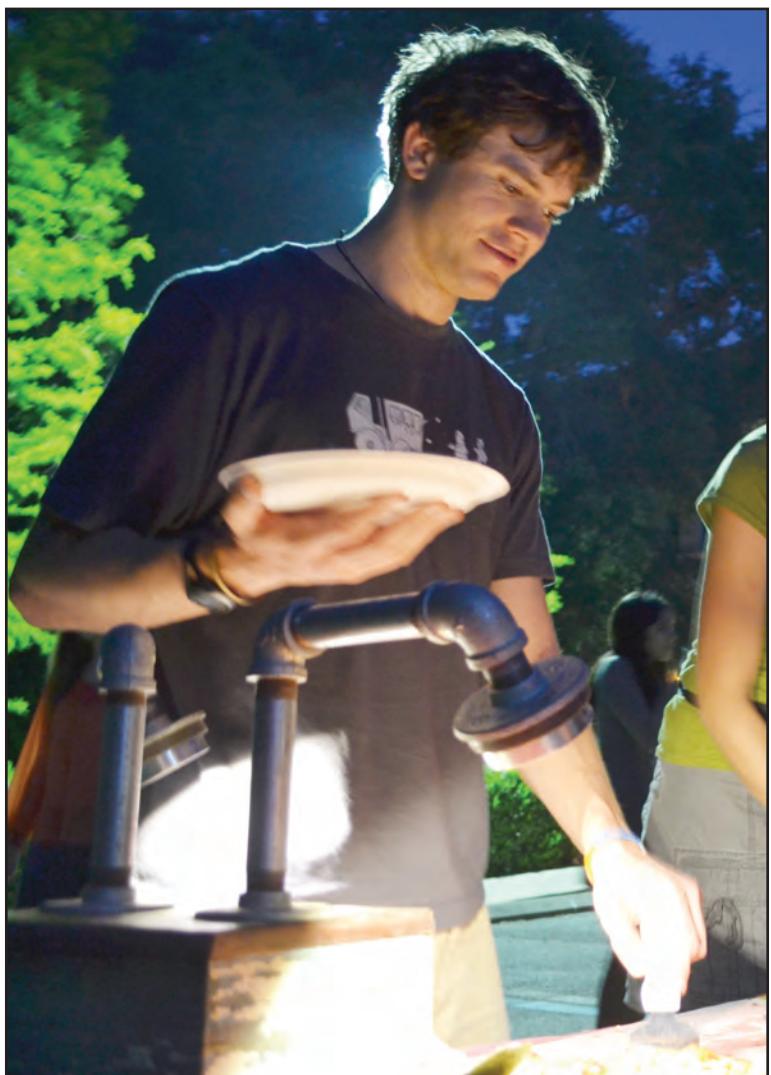
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Matthew Martyr / Alligator Staff

**Breaking Fast**

UF biology graduate student Travis Guy, 31, celebrates the end of Passover with Humble Pie pizza at Hillel on Tuesday evening.

# SFC LGBTQ rule up for approval again

## Career org rejected it twice

**ERIN MEISENZAHL-PEACE**

Alligator Contributing Writer

If a Santa Fe College student needs to use the bathroom, there are two options: male or female.

If students identify as both, or look like one but identify as the other, they face difficult decisions — and possible harassment from other students.

SFC Faculty Senate voted to change that Tuesday, with a 27-0 consensus in favor of a resolution that expands the college's anti-discrimination regulations to include members of the LGBTQ community.

"If we have it on paper, we can set a precedent," said student Sen. Wallace Mazon, who authored the resolution. "We can take action to swoop down on this harassment."

Mazon said the issue surfaced after a recent harassment incident in which a student was followed off campus to Publix being heckled for using the "wrong" bathroom in the SFC cafeteria.

The resolution would add sexual identity, gender identity and gender expression to the list of protections offered by College Rule 2.8, SFC's nondiscrimination

and harassment policy.

"This was a battle that was won today — an important battle," said George Briggs, senator for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. "I've been through this in the past, supporting this resolution the past two times it's come through the Faculty Senate floor. We have a tough battle in Career Service Council, but I believe we can win it."

*"We hope that this time around folks won't interject their personal judgments, but do what's good for all of the students."*

**Jeremy Pierce**

Student Senate president

Although the Faculty Senate approved the rule's expansion, there are three governing bodies that oversee SFC: the Student Senate, Faculty Senate and the Career Service Council.

According to Student Senate members, SFC President Jackson Sasser needs all three bodies to be in agreement before he will take a side on a controversial issue.

The past two times, the Career

Service Council has put the brakes on the resolution.

"In the past, there have been individuals who have cited personal judgments, and personal judgments have stood in the way of progress," said Student Senate President Jeremy Pierce, who presented the issue to about 40 faculty members at Tuesday's meeting. "We hope that this time around folks won't interject their personal judgments but do what's good for all of the students."

At UF, a similar code already exists.

The UF Non-Discrimination Policy states that the university is "committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status."

But Pierce said "personal politics and legal issues" are what's holding SFC back.

He continued: "I feel like it will pass (the Career Services Council) because leadership is different. Santa Fe is moving in the direction of a more diverse college."

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# Laughing scientifically confirmed as good medicine, study suggests

## LAUGHING REDUCES STRESS.

**ASHLEY KOBZA**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Giggling your way to good grades may be a possibility.

According to the results of a new study by Loma Linda University in California, laughter increases short-term memory in older adults, as well as reduces stress hormones, lowers blood pressure and increases mood state.

"Humor is very interesting as a research topic," Dr. Glen Finney, division chief for behavioral neurology at UF, wrote in an email. "Laughter may be our way of telling ourselves and others to relax."

Finney said the study highlights the importance of behavioral neurology and neuropsychology in understanding how humans func-

tion.

"(Laughter) may have to do with thinking about something more positive," said Joanne Byars, a behavioral neurology fellow at UF. "It could be providing a different perspective on the world."

The study of laughter is an emerging field, Byars said, and the Loma Linda study is a promising step for the future of behavioral neurology.

For students like De-Vaughn Williams, a 22-year-old UF food science and human nutrition senior, laughter could be a cure for final exam stress.

He said bringing laughter into his medical profession could be a smart career move.

"The biggest issue right now is being able to afford health care," Williams said. "Laughing is free."



Matthew Martyr / Alligator Staff

UF telecommunication freshman Matthew Szlasa, 19, and accounting graduate student Jacob Sperber, 23, eat wings and share some laughs at Gator City on Tuesday evening.

## STATE

# Amazon will start charging sales tax in Florida on May 1

**DOMINIC UTTER**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Amazon.com announced last week it will be charging sales tax for Florida customers.

The 6-percent tax will be ap-

plied to all goods purchased except groceries, medicines and vitamins and supplements, lining up with Florida's tax laws. Ty Rogers, a spokesman for Amazon, wrote in an email that the online retailer will be required to collect sales tax

starting May 1.

The tax was spurred by the retailer's plans to add two additional warehouses in Florida, according to a Tampa Bay Times article.

Chelsea Byard, a manager at Zell's Hardware, located at 3727

W. University Ave., said her store having to charge sales tax has put them at a disadvantage to online retailers like Amazon.

Byard said the tax on Amazon's goods will help. She said although shelves are barer than they were

when the store opened 50 years ago, the store still tries to provide the best service at the lowest prices.

"Of course our stuff is a bit more expensive, but we have to survive," she said.

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# UAA to consult fans on how to improve gameday experience

► TWELVE PEOPLE WILL BE APPOINTED TO A COUNCIL.

**JONATHAN ARNHOLZ**

Alligator Contributing Writer

The University Athletic Association is looking to gain perspective

on the fan experience by creating the Fan Advisory Council.

Jenn Mereby, UAA guest services coordinator, said 12 council members will offer suggestions for how to improve the gameday atmosphere.

Mereby said the UAA will select representatives from several

season-ticket-holder demographics, including current students and boosters.

She said staff members typically work during games, preventing them from watching as fans, which is why the council's perspective will be valuable.

Applications, which close on

Sunday, are on GatorZone.com.

Mereby said the council's diversity could provide insight on entertaining fans of all varieties.

"The issue that needs to be discussed is how we can help students come in, but at the same time help people who have been season ticket holders for 40 years still have a good

time at the game," she said.

Although the council will focus on football, the insight could be applied to other sports, she said.

Michael Tomonto, an 18-year-old UF mechanical engineering freshman, said the council is a way the athletic department can reconnect with fans after a losing season.

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## LOCAL

# Emergency gun bill faces kickback

**JENNA LYONS**

Alligator Staff Writer

jlyons@alligator.org

A new bill to allow concealed guns in public without a permit is being met with opposition from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

HB 209, a National Rifle Association-backed bill, would allow legal gun owners to conceal weapons without a concealed carry permit in a mandatory evacuation caused by a state of emergency. It passed the Florida House 80-36 Friday despite clear opposition by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Local law enforcement has the authority to declare a state of emergency. In Alachua County, state of emergency evacuations have been declared for flooding in 2012 and drought conditions in 2006, among others.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sgt. Becky Butscher said the department supports the sheriffs association's stance because "there's no real clear boundaries" with the bill.

"It's kind of a huge safety issue," Butscher said. "You've got heightened emotions, weapons on top of it. It's a recipe for disaster."

*"Obviously this isn't allowing anyone to break laws. It's allowing them to evacuate."*

**Edward Metzger**legislative aid for  
Heather Fitzenhagen

State Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen sponsored the bill. Edward Metzger, her legislative aide, said it was sparked from concerns following Hurricane Katrina.

"Obviously this isn't allowing anyone to break laws," Metzger said. "It's allowing them to evacuate."

Supporters of the bill, like Florida Carry executive direc-

tor Sean Caranna, said the current law prohibiting concealed carry without a permit violates residents' rights.

"Taking away people's right to bear arms when the state can't come to protect you is a violation of the very core of the Second Amendment," he said.

UF political science junior Cherie Bynum said the bill's ambiguity can be a problem if people misunderstand its boundaries. For example, it's unclear as to when the evacuation ends, and therefore when the law stops protecting those without permits.

At the same time, she said she can't oppose it.

The 20-year-old member of UF Students for a Democratic Society said if anything should be reformed, it's the "stand your ground" law.

"I'm not the biggest gun supporter in the world, but I do recognize it as a right that's in our constitution," she said.

# 'Palcohol' draws reaction

**► IT ISN'T FDA-APPROVED YET.****CHRISTINE ALVAREZ**

Alligator Contributing Writer

The FDA approval — or lack thereof — of a controversial new alcohol product is stirring up Gainesville.

Palcohol is a shot-sized package of powdered alcohol — just add water.

According to the Palcohol website, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau approved the product.

However, the hype of the unusual alcohol concept was shot down Monday when a representative for the federal bureau said the approvals were issued in error, USA Today reported.

Lipsmark, the privately held company that owns Palcohol, responded by saying the disapproval of labels does not mean disapproval of the product. The company will resubmit the labels and does not currently have an expected approval date.

"The very nature of the product fa-

cilitates potential for its misuse, which could increase the risk of alcohol overdose and negative consequences associated with high-risk alcohol consumption," wrote Julia Rae Varnes, a specialist at GatorWell Health Promotion Services, in an email.

Beth Desimone, a 25-year-old UF sports management junior, has been a bartender at :08 for almost three years.

"I think it's a bad idea," she said. "I think that they're going to bring it with them inside of the bar instead of paying for drinks."

She said if Palcohol becomes a fad, UF might even need to step up its security on gamedays.

Sneaking in a packet of Palcohol into the Swamp and mixing it with water could go against policies listed on the University Athletic Association's website.

"They're going to have to do extra security checks where they're checking everybody's pockets and purses," Desimone said.

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# UF alumna porn star takes stage name from UF professor

## Clay Calvert taught Casey Calvert law

**SEAN STEWART-MUNIZ**

Alligator Staff Writer

[sstewart-muniz@alligator.org](mailto:ssstewart-muniz@alligator.org)

UF students Googling office hours for one professor might not like what they find — or they might.

UF professor Clay Calvert's last name is now synonymous with mass media law and a porn star's budding career. A UF alumna who took his course decided to honor the professor by taking his name to the porn industry.

Casey Calvert, a rising star in adult films, graduated academically and sexually during her time at UF. The Gainesville native thought pornography was illegal until she took Calvert's class on mass media law as a sophomore, where she learned that the industry was legitimate and thriving.

"It felt right because really if I hadn't taken his class, I wouldn't be where I am right now," Casey said. "I'm happier than I've ever been."

The 23-year-old asked to be identified only by her stage name for confidentiality.

UF College of Journalism and Communications professor Calvert had no clue Casey was out there using his name in hardcore, softcore and every porn scene in between until he received an email from a student who had spotted Casey during his online activities. Casey also received a copy of the email, and she sent an apology to Calvert shortly afterward.

"I was startled to learn and discover an adult video star had taken my last name for her porn name," Calvert said.

Although Casey's interest in porn reached back to her teenage years when she saw her first adult movies, she didn't kiss a boy until her freshman year of college. She said she lost her virginity senior year.

"I was essentially celibate because I wasn't confident enough to go out and get a boyfriend," she said.

*"I was startled to learn and discover an adult video star had taken my last name for her porn name."*

Clay Calvert  
UF professor

Her sexual curiosity extended to the hardcore-bondage scene, where her first foray into adult modeling took place. The then-college senior answered an ad on a fetish social media site from an Orlando man looking to do a bondage shoot.

Placing her trust in a stranger, Casey posed for pictures completely tied up. Nothing sexual happened past her being nude, but she discovered a passion that would carry her through the early days of her career.

Once she graduated from UF in 2012, Casey explored fetish photography further, modeling for more than 300 shoots that spanned the spectrum of human sexuality.

She even takes special requests — as long as they aren't illegal. Her most memorable request to don scuba gear in the bedroom was trumped this year by a fan who wanted her to sexualize the movie "Gremlins 2: The New Batch."

"Porn is a safe way to explore fantasies," she said.

She stayed as a fetish model for about a year, until Mike Spiegler took notice of her.

Spiegler is an agent for adult actresses, and Casey said he's choosy when it comes to picking new talent. So when he asked Casey to sign a contract, she jumped at the opportunity.

She had a gentle transition into hardcore pornography, shooting a romantic and sensual scene for her first gig. The second shoot was over-the-top rough.

"I was so nervous that day. I thought I was gonna cry," she said. "But once I got past that, I realized how much I like performing for the camera."

And for the first few months, Casey's career was like that — nervous before shoots but a perfectionist once she got on set. She found a new confidence while she did everything under the sun in pornography.

One year and more than 100 men later, Casey grew from a wide-eyed adult actress to a contender for Best New Starlet for 2014's Adult Video News Awards. Though she didn't take home any awards, her fans' reactions have been consistent: Casey is hot stuff.

Now, she's living in Los Angeles, earning a comfortable six figures and dating a director in the industry.

Casey isn't the only UF student to dabble in porn. She said she knows of a couple alumni who are in the industry and a few current students modeling for fetish shoots.

Although her alter ego was never outed publicly during her time at the university, she knew the threat of criticism and shaming was real. That same threat exists for students now entering the adult industry who walk the thin line between their public and private lives.

"We use stage names for a reason," she said. "If a girl wanted to come out as a fetish model, it's her responsibility."

She said the negative stereotypes associated with porn are mostly untrue. Most girls are there because they want to be, and the confidence she's gained from her time in the industry was unrivaled by anything she's experienced in life.

"I love all the different opportunities that porn gives me," she said. "Some days I go to work and I just make smut, but other days I go to work and I make art."



Courtesy to the Alligator

Casey Calvert graduated from UF in 2012. The 23-year-old works and lives in Los Angeles, one of the major porn-producing cities in the U.S.

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Courtesy to the Alligator

Tia McDonald, a 20-year-old UF public relations senior, took the crown at the Miss Florida United States 2014 Pageant.

## CAMPUS

# UF public relations student to represent Florida in Miss United States competition

**SONIA PORTALUPPI**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Another UF student took the stage and the crown at the 2014 Miss Florida United States Pageant last month.

Tia McDonald, a 20-year-old UF public relations senior, will go on to represent Florida in the national Miss United States competition in Washington, D.C., from July 4 to 6.

"There's so much that goes into (nationals)," McDonald said. "We're going to be there a week ahead of time for appearances and practicing for the different categories of the competition."

McDonald said she found local competition to be tough but used her public relations skills to win the title and go on to nationals.

"UF has really prepared me for nationals," McDonald said. "(In earlier pageants) I didn't go in with any kind of business or public relations plan, and I had no idea how to reach out on social media."

Miss Florida is no stranger to pageants.

She estimates she has won 75 pageant titles and about 30 crowns since she started competing as a 6-month-old.

Tina Chisholm, Miss Florida United States pageant director, was one of the five judges to review McDonald's

*"UF has really prepared me for nationals. (In earlier pageants) I didn't go in with any kind of business or public relations plan, and I had no idea how to reach out on social media."*

**Tia McDonald**

*20-year-old UF public relations senior*

application for this year's pageant.

"The fact that she is so educated and such a go-getter made Tia stand out," Chisholm said.

McDonald said she plans to use her degree to work with nonprofits.

Her passion for community service and beauty pageants began at age 10, when her mother, a nurse, had a patient with Down syndrome visit their house.

"She kept on saying 'I want to be in pageants. I want to be in pageants.' But there weren't any special needs pageants available," McDonald said.

So McDonald created one.

Our Shining S.T.A.R.S. has grown from an informal living-room event into a full-blown pageant that has crowned more than 500 kings and queens at the Ormond Beach Performing Arts Center.

## Former Miss Florida United States winners who received degrees from UF

**Melissa Witek** – 2005 winner

**Kristen Berset** – 2004 winner

**Carrie Ann Mewha** – 2003 winner

**Julie Donaldson** – 2001 winner

**Kristin Ludecke** – 2000 winner

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# Gator Stompin' organizers hope to break pub crawl record



Matthew Martyr / Alligator

Gator Stompin', a pub crawl organized by the Pledge 5 Foundation, will attempt to break a world record on May 1 by having more than 4,700 people check in to 10 bars each.

► ABOUT 25 ARTISTS WILL PERFORM, TOO.

## BRANDON KRUMINS

Alligator Contributing Writer

May 1 has the potential to go down in Gainesville history — maybe even world history.

Gator Stompin', organized by the Pledge 5 Foundation, is a pub crawl in its 32nd year. This year the organization is boasting a world-record attempt for the world's largest pub crawl.

In order to break the record, more than 4,700 people would have to check in at each of 10 bars, said Jason Bowman, director of the foundation.

"Every year the event grows, so I would anticipate sometime in the next few years Gainesville will hold the record for world's largest pub crawl," he said.

The current record is held by Crawl for Cancer for a pub crawl in Kansas City, Mo., that took place last year, according to the Guinness World Records 2013.

Gator Stompin' includes almost every bar in Midtown and downtown, and many restaurants are

involved as well, he said. Pledge 5 is expecting more locations to participate than the 85 that "stomped" last year.

Although it started as just a pub crawl, the event has turned into a festival over the years. The additions of music, food, activities and a kickoff concert on Bo Diddley Community Plaza have helped it expand, he said.

"I heard Waka Flocka (Flame) was going to be there, and that's what caught my interest," said Jonathan Haney, a 20-year-old UF marketing sophomore who is attending the crawl with his roommate.

Bowman said about 25 artists will perform, including Wolfgang Gartner, Hoochie and Chuck Ragan from Hot Water Music.

Heather Lilholt, director of community events for Pledge 5, said for those who are a part of the organization, the event is more than just a pub crawl.

"When people come out and support the cause, you're not just supporting local business, but you're supporting a great foundation that is working toward generating volunteers," Lilholt said. "It's all in all a good cause, no matter what way you look at it."

## CAMPUS

# UPD to begin taking unused bikes

### NATHAN KING

Alligator Contributing Writer

University Police will soon be on the prowl for bikes left on campus over Summer break.

Officers will impound all unused bikes around campus beginning in about a week and continuing into the Summer A term, UPD Capt. Jeff Holcomb said.

"The easiest thing for everyone is just take the bike home with you," Holcomb said.

Police will scope out areas around residence halls and put bright orange tags on bikes in the areas, he said. Students can remove the tags, and the bikes will not be impounded.

Holcomb said he encourages students to register their bikes with the department, which can be done by patrolling officers or by visiting its office.

The registration process is simple: a UF decal is put on the bike. Then, the bicycle's serial number, make, model and other general details are entered into the database and the owners' contact information is recorded, Holcomb said.

If a registered bike is impounded by UPD

during the summer, the owner will be emailed and given an opportunity to pick up the bike within 30 days before it is sold into auction, Holcomb said.

*"The easiest thing for everyone is just take the bike home with you."*

Jeff Holcomb  
UPD Capt.

Bike Works, a local bike shop, is offering students another alternative.

The shop, located at 2300 SW 34th St., is charging \$10 a month to store students' bicycles at its facility during the summer.

Tony Cousins, manager of Bike Works, said the shop offers a safe and secure place to store the bikes.

Kevin Montes, a 20-year-old UF physics sophomore, said he needs to find a place for his bike so he doesn't have to leave it on campus and risk it being impounded.

"Sure, my bike isn't worth much to others, but she's gotten me through this semester," Montes said. "I'll do whatever it takes to keep her for another one."

# 31 sea turtles released into Jacksonville waters

### ► MOST WERE BABIES.

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE — Nearly three dozen sea turtles that were rescued on Cape Cod last fall were released off Florida waters Tuesday.

The 31 endangered and threatened sea turtles spent months at the New England Aquarium's rescue center near Boston. The group was transported in a caravan of three cars to the sand dunes of Jacksonville's Little Talbot Island State Park, where three aquarium biologists and six rescue volunteers unloaded the sea turtles in their individual padded plastic crates and placed each one about 30 feet from the breaking waves, the aquarium said

in a statement.

"What better way to celebrate Earth Day than the life affirming act of returning dozens of rescued and endangered animals to their ocean home," the statement said.

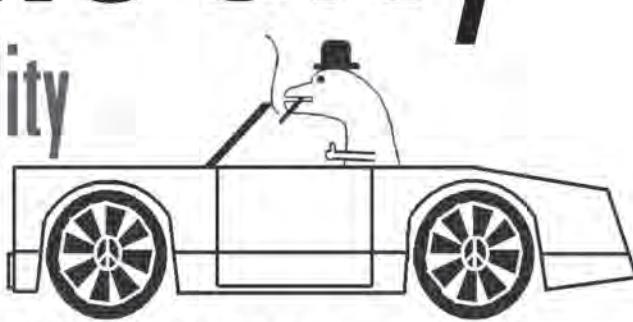
The turtles were mostly juveniles, including 28 Kemp's Ridleys, the most endangered, two loggerheads and one green sea turtle, officials said.

They washed up last November and December in the frigid waters of Cape Cod Bay and slowly became hypothermic. At the aquarium's sea turtle hospital in Quincy, Mass., they were treated for malnourishment, dehydration, pneumonia and other blood and organ disorders.

More than 80 sea turtles have been taken to the New England Aquarium so far this year.

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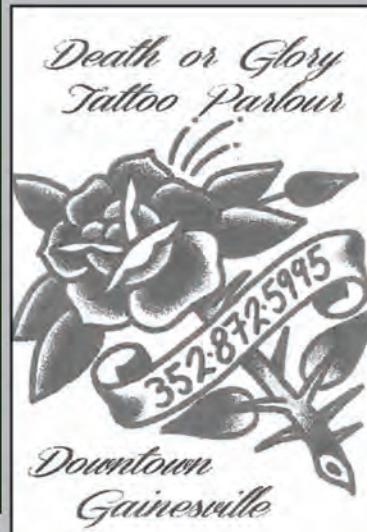
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# GM recalls too late for family

► A FORMER UF FOOTBALL  
PLAYER'S FAMILY WAS AFFECTED.

**SEAN STEWART-MUNIZ**

Alligator Staff Writer [ssewart-muniz@alligator.org](mailto:ssewart-muniz@alligator.org)

For years, Renee Trautwein went between blaming and missing her daughter.

Sarah Trautwein, a 19-year-old University of South Carolina student and sister of former UF football player Phil Trautwein, was driving home on Interstate 95 in 2009 when she lost control of her 2005 Chevy Cobalt and crashed into a tree.

When Trautwein got the call, she couldn't believe it. She heard the police say Sarah had fallen asleep at the wheel and died on impact. Her daughter was gone, and she didn't even know Sarah was on the road. She was supposed to come home from Hilton Head, S.C., on Saturday, but she left early Friday to be with her mom and see the family shih tzu, Sonnie.

"Whenever I had a meltdown, I'd be mad at Sarah for getting in that car," she said. "I was weak, and for five years I accepted that — until recently," she said.

Renee said she saw news reports about four weeks ago of a controversial recall on several General Motors vehicles, and the reports haunted her. Her suspicions took hold when she heard stories of accidents similar to her daughter's. A lawsuit was being filed by Texas lawyer Bob Hilliard.

The family contacted Hilliard, whom Trautwein said was sure Sarah's accident was due to the faulty part in the recall, so he began an investigation.

She said Hilliard returned a week later with the police accident report and startling news — Sarah's airbag never deployed, which is one warning sign that her car was affected by the faulty part.

Since then, the Trautweins have joined the group of families who lost loved ones because of the faulty part and are fighting to raise criminal charges against GM.

Trautwein attended the April congressional hearing where GM's late recall of 2.6 million vehicles with the ignition defect was called into question.

She sat in the room while GM CEO

Mary Barra was questioned by Congress' House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee about the company's late action and the subsequent deaths and injuries.

Reuters reported GM learned of the defect in Chevrolet Cobalt, Saturn Ions and several other models in 2001 but hadn't issued a recall until February.

*"We are deeply sorry, and we are working to address this issue as quickly as we can."*

**Alan Batey**  
*GM North America President, in a release*

GM employee statements citing costs associated with a recall may have discouraged the company from replacing the part in the vehicles. The replacement part cost 57 cents, according to Reuters.

A press release from GM stated the company is recalling these vehicles because the ignition switches' resistance might be below GM specifications. In the case of a switch below the standard, any more weight than the key itself or a "jarring event" might turn the ignition out of the "run" position.

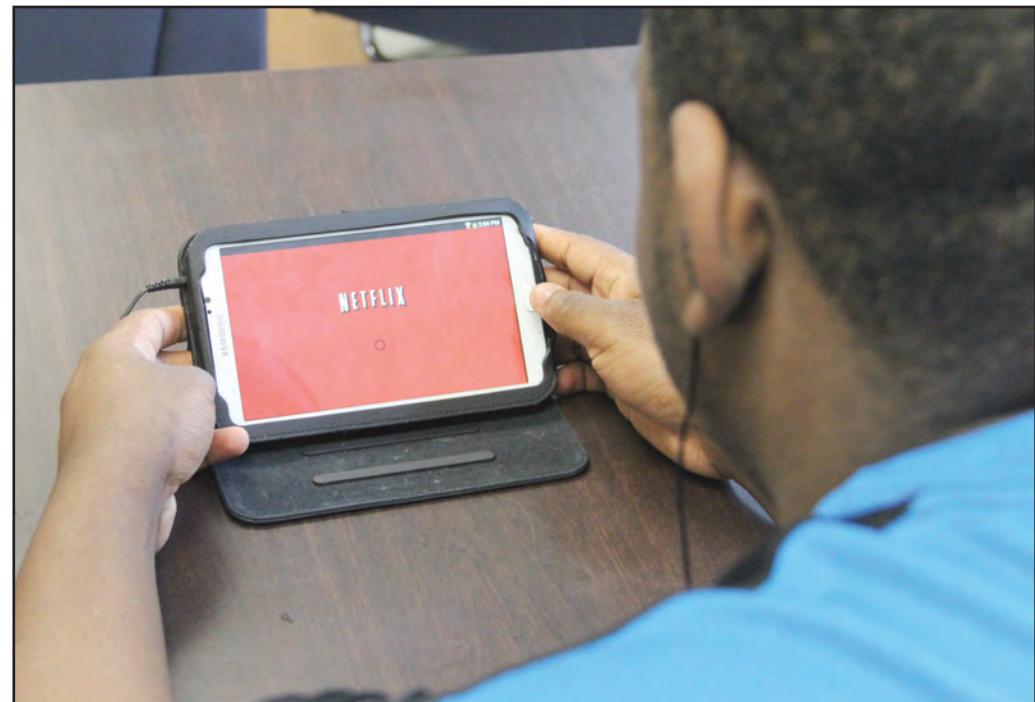
"Ensuring our customers' safety is our first order of business," said GM North America President Alan Batey in a press release. "We are deeply sorry, and we are working to address this issue as quickly as we can."

Trautwein said she felt sick during the hearing. She said she felt Barra's responses were scripted and cold.

She recalled that Sarah had a Vera Bradley wallet on her keychain, holding her credit card, driver's license and some loose cash. It was heavy enough to turn the ignition, cutting her power steering, power brakes and airbags.

The family bought Sarah the car her senior year of high school from a GM dealership in New Jersey. It was Gator blue with a small orange line running down it.

She remembers driving home with her daughter the day before the accident, when Sarah turned to her and said "Mom, I love my car."



Alex Maminakis / Alligator

## Study Break

Kendrick Turner, a 21-year-old UF criminology sophomore, watches Netflix on his tablet. Netflix will soon raise its prices for new users by \$1 or \$2 to help pay for more original content.

## STATE

# Gov. Scott backs beer growlers

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott supports the legalization of the refillable half-gallon beer containers that craft beer lovers call growlers, his office said Tuesday.

The growler issue has been in the middle of a bitter fight between Florida's craft breweries and Budweiser distributors that only want the half-gallon growlers legalized in a bill that adds more regulation to the rapidly growing craft beer industry.

Scott spokeswoman Jackie Schutz said Tuesday whether he signs a bill to allow 64-ounce growler sales at Florida craft breweries is still to be determined. It will depend

on the language that gets to his desk.

Breweries can now sell unlimited gallon and quart growlers, but Florida's odd container laws prohibit the half-gallon size that's the industry standard in 47 states. Legalizing the half-gallon size is the top priority of this legislative session for the booming craft beer industry.

But a Senate bill (SB 1714) ties the growler size to more regulation that brewers say would hurt the craft beer industry and slow its growth. It includes language that would force all but the smallest breweries to buy their own bottles and cans of beers from distributors before they can sell them to brewery visitors.

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## LOCAL

# Subsidized housing residents trapped despite mold problems

**SHAYNA POSSES**

Alligator Staff Writer

sposses@alligator.org

Erica Brown's 4-year-old son doesn't understand why his family can't go home.

Brown and her three children have been living in a hotel since early January because of the mold in their Horizon House apartment. The complex's mold problem has driven residents to sleep in their living rooms and throw out hundreds of dollars in belongings.

Officials say there's nothing they can do.

"I want a place where I can not be worried about things getting into the walls and into our lungs," the 26-year-old single mother said.

She first noticed the problem last year, a couple months after moving into the complex at 1515 NW 10th St. Brown and her two daughters suffer from asthma, so after spotting mold, she immediately called maintenance.

It was months before an employee came by, sprayed bleach and painted the area. The complex offered to move her to another apartment, but she knew it wouldn't make a difference.

Resident Walette Mulberry, 38, had been dealing with mold for five years. In the past year, it's gotten worse.

For months, she and her two kids slept in the living room. One of the three bedrooms served as the closet and changing area. The other rooms were covered in mold.

Onteria Lawrence's 4-year-old son, Timarkis Archie, played while she shoved a moldy bureau down the stairway leading up to her second-story apartment.

"I can't afford to throw this away, but I got

to," Lawrence said. "Even my Bible, the Holy Bible, I have to throw away."

She's lost six pounds from the stress, watching as her kids got colds and ear infections she couldn't prevent.

The residents have no choice but to stay. Horizon House Apartments and its sister property, Sunset Apartments, are government subsidized. Federal agencies give low-income residents vouchers to help pay rent.

The complexes' residents couldn't afford apartments without the Section 8 housing program. They also can't afford to leave.

City code enforcement has no standard for how much mold makes an apartment uninhabitable. In the Florida humidity, it's a lost cause, said Gainesville city spokesman Bob Woods. The department can only issue a violation if there's a physical problem like faulty plumbing or a leaky roof.

The mold in Horizon House is most likely due to humidity, according to an email from code enforcement division manager Christopher Cooper. A late-January memo says the complex put the families up in hotels while the situation was remediated.

Months later, Brown's family still shares the studio hotel room the complex started paying for after code enforcement visited.

In early February, her neighbors received a notice from Horizon House that said the mold problem was being handled. Donald Mitchell, 27, whose cousin lives there, said so far they've knocked down a couple of walls.

"Trying to cover their mistakes," he said.

No one wants to be uprooted from their homes, but there's nothing the city needs to do at this time, Woods said. That is, unless the families choose to pay for private companies to take air-quality samples.

Neither code enforcement nor the county health department has the resources to conduct tests. But if results show the amount of mold in the air is hazardous, the property owner can receive a citation.

Woods isn't sure of the threshold. He said he imagines the test results will state if a location is unsuitable for human habitation. In that case, the situation would fall under Chapter 13 of the city ordinances, which says owners creating dangerous conditions are in violation.

Anthony Dennis, environmental health director for Alachua County's Department of Health, gets a lot of calls about mold.

He never recommends testing: It tells tenants what they already know.

Dennis mostly hears from renters who are stuck in leases. All he can do is offer advice and pass along pamphlets.

"You'll know if you have taken care of the problem because you can breathe," he said.

But if it's beyond repair, there's nothing the health department can do. It, too, has no enforceable standard.

Establishing one would be helpful, Dennis said, but because people react differently to mold, it's difficult to reach a consensus. In Florida, there will always be spores. It's when humidity climbs to more than 50 or 60 percent that they'll grow on household objects. Mold loves leather.

Around the corner from Horizon House, Hayley Reese points to her 8-year-old daughter playing in the Sunset Apartments courtyard, 1500 NW 12th St.

Reese, 27, said the girl sometimes thinks people are watching her at night. Once, she blocked the windowsill with a pillow. "In two days, it was covered in mold," Reese said.

Poor air circulation is a major contributor to mold, Dennis said. Renters often keep their air conditioning off because of high utility costs or don't have working units.

Reese is a waitress. Her husband is unemployed. They have five kids. But no matter how tight money gets, the air conditioning or heat is always on. The unit is one of the few appliances that works.

Staff is hard to reach. The office is closed on Mondays, and when it is open, the phone goes to voicemail.

Management did not return calls about this story.

The courtyards of Horizon House and Sun-set apartments are never empty.

In the morning, mothers sit in lawn chairs, gathering the energy to change into work uniforms. At noon, young men greet their neighbors in single-strap sandals, passing around Black & Mild cigars. After school, kids run through the sand, laughing.

Most of the residents know each other by first name only. They don't have their neighbor's number, though they think their cousin or sister or homeboy might. But every day, they hang out in the courtyard together.

No one wants to go inside.

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2BR/2.5BA Townhouse, walk to UF & Downtown. W/D and off street parking. Avail 8/1 for 1 yr. lease. \$425 mo.+ 1/2 util. Call or text 305-982-7218. 4-23-14-4-1

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### 1 For Rent: Furnished

### 2 For Rent: Unfurnished

### 3 Sublease

### 4 Roommates

### 5 Real Estate

### 16 Health Services

### 17 Typing Services

### 18 Personals

### 19 Connections

### 20 Event Notices

### 21 Entertainment

### 22 Tickets

### 23 Rides

### 24 Pets

### 25 Lost & Found

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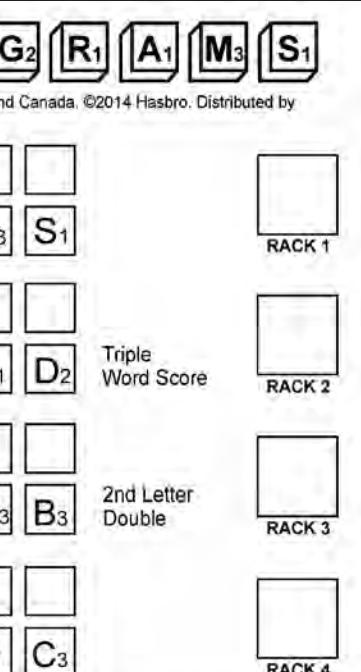
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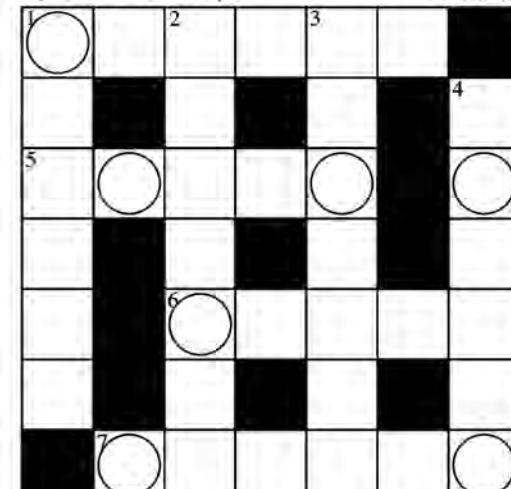
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by David L. Hoyt

4-23-14

**ACROSS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ line  
5. Subject  
6. Bumpy  
7. Menace

**CLUE**

1. Loathe  
2. Formula  
3. Perform, do  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes

**CLUE:** This movie was one of the highest grossing movies of 1988.

**ANSWER**

DETODT  
EHMTE  
RGUHO  
EMPDIN

**CLUE**

- TDETES  
EHEROMT  
UEEXETC  
ADEHMS

**BONUS**

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.

ANSWER 5. IA-Dotter 3D-Theorem 5A-Theme GA-Rough TA-Mashed B-Die Hard  
D-Detect 2D-Theorem 3D-Execute 4D-Mashed B-Die Hard  
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04-23

13

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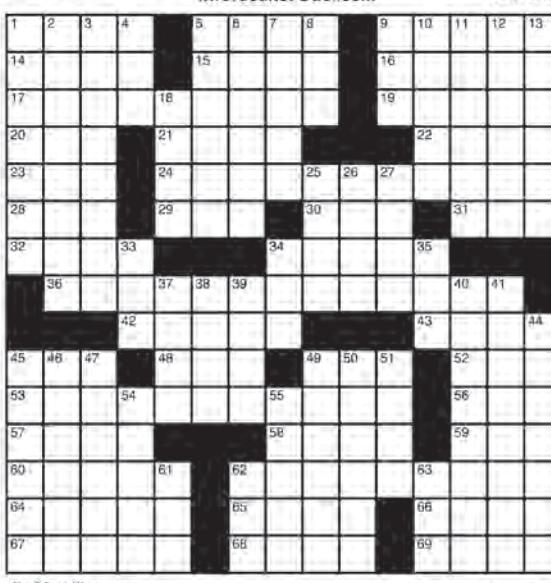


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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**  
1 Spice organizer  
5 48-Across brand  
9 Right-angled supports  
14 K-12, to textbook publishers  
15 Neck and neck  
16 Slightly moisten  
17 "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" collaborator  
19 Green hue  
20 Camcorder button  
21 Google executive chairman Schmidt  
22 Had too much, briefly  
23 Antlered animal  
24 "The helpful place" slogan  
28 Mu followers  
29 Pt. of a sentence  
30 Vote against  
31 Certain commuter's destination: Abbr.  
32 The Belmonts frontman  
34 1930s migrants  
36 Many a circus employee  
42 Scheherazade's milieu  
43 Designer St. Laurent  
45 Tech sch. overlooking the Hudson  
48 Iced drink  
49 "Just an update" letters  
52 Pipe bend  
53 Wayne Manor resident  
56 Actress Peeples  
57 Sasquatch cousin  
58 "The Dukes of Hazzard" deputy  
59 Mt. Sunflower is its highest point  
60 Antacid, briefly  
62 Light bulb-over-the-head instance, and a hint to 17-, 24-, 36- and 53-Across  
64 When many take morning breaks  
65 Proofreading mark  
66 Winans of gospel



By Matt Skoczen  
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04/23/14

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B <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	RACK 2 =	80	
M <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	65	
S <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	RACK 4 =	64	
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# Sports

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014  
WWW.ALLIGATORSPORTS.ORG

## Late home run dooms Florida in close game against Jacksonville

ADAM PINCUS

Alligator Staff Writer

@adamPincus

The at-bat defied reason. Jacksonville's No. 9 batter, Dylan Dillard, stepped to the plate with two outs and runners on second and third base. Right-hander Ryan Harris toed the rubber.

Harris had been a key cog in

Florida's mid-season resurgence. On Tuesday, the junior right-hander surrendered a three-run home run to Dillard off the blue banner hanging across the last row of bleachers beyond the left-field wall. The emphatic late-game home run followed two consecutive hit batters and a sacrifice bunt.

Jacksonville (14-25, 7-10 Atlantic Sun Conference) upset No. 6 Florida (27-14, 12-6 Southeastern Conference) in a 3-1 victory Tuesday night in McKethan Stadium. UF scored only one run on a second-inning solo home run by Zack Powers. The defeat snapped a six-game winning streak.

"Guy runs into one. It's as simple as that," coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "You've got to locate, especially when you're playing in a one-run game. It's one of those things where the margin of error is very small."

O'Sullivan added: "I don't want this to be a focus on Ryan. He's been throwing the ball really great for us for three years. The bottom line is JU did a really nice job in that inning."

*"I don't want this to be a focus on Ryan. He's been throwing the ball really great for us for three years. The bottom line is JU did a really nice job in that inning."*

Kevin O'Sullivan  
UF coach

For six frames, it appeared Powers' second home run of 2014 would be enough. Right-hander Karsten Whitson was dealing in his first start since April 1. Tuesday night would've been his first win in nearly two months. He posted a season-high five strikeouts in five innings. Four of his five strikeouts came on sliders, including two to end Dillard's first two at-bats.

Whitson, who was working on a pitch count, finished at 61 pitches. Forty-one of those were strikes. He struck out batters to end the second, fourth and fifth innings. Whitson avoided any runs in the first inning after third batter Connor Marabell walked, and Scott Ricci followed with a single to right field that Braden Mattson didn't field cleanly. The error put runners at second and third with two outs.

"I thought Karsten threw really good. He did everything that I had hoped for. That's the disappoint-

ing thing. It's been a tough road for him, and he comes out tonight and throws as good as he has in a while," O'Sullivan said. "I was just hoping that our guys would rally around him and be a bit more motivated at the plate, and we just weren't."

Midweek games have been a pain for the Gators. Florida racked up three straight wins against Florida State but also lost to Florida Atlantic. This latest setback comes against an injury-riddled team that lost 6-1 to the Seminoles in Tallahassee a week ago.

The go-ahead home run has extra meaning for Dillard, who entered the season as Jacksonville's cleanup hitter. JU coach Tim Montez gradually moved the sophomore outfielder lower in the order. At .252 entering the game, Dillard was well below his team-leading .304 average that earned him Atlantic Sun All-Freshman squad honors in 2013.

"Good for Dylan Dillard. He's been struggling a bit. We put him down in the bottom of the order the last couple of games to try and get him fastballs in that spot," Montez said.

While Florida comes back tonight at 7 for a home game against Florida A&M, Jacksonville has nine days off for final exams. The Dolphins had lost six of their eight games versus top-25 teams.

Jacksonville wanted this win in front of a sizable amount of fans above the first-base dugout. Dolphins players filled their ticket list with requests from family, friends and fellow team members who didn't travel with the team.

"Definitely, especially coming off of Florida State," Dillard said of their increased motivation. "We wanted to at least knock one big dog off."



Alligator File Photo

Karsten Whitson pitches during UF's 5-0 win against USF on Feb. 20, 2011, at McKethan Stadium. Whitson tossed five innings without giving up a run in Florida's 3-1 loss to Jacksonville on Tuesday.

### MEN'S GOLF

## Golf coach to retire after second-longest tenure in UF history

LAYNE WEITZEL

Alligator Writer

@laynejweitzel

After 27 years at the helm of the Florida men's golf program, coach Buddy Alexander is hanging up his hat.

Alexander announced Tuesday morning at a team meeting that he will retire after the golf season ends, which could be soon. The Gators will compete at the Southeastern Conference Tournament starting on Friday.

If they perform well, they may get a bid in an NCAA Regional, but if they don't, Alexander's career will end on the greens of the Seaside Golf Club in St. Simons Island, Ga.

"I just thought it was a good time to do it," Alexander said in a release. "The competitor in me isn't crazy about the fact this isn't one of our better teams, and you would like to fix the

problem, but for me, it's just time to go. I still have a heck of a lot of energy, but I probably don't have the patience and the passion that I might have once had. It just felt like before the tournament was the right time."

After the 2012-13 season concluded, Alexander, 61, began to speak with UF athletics director Jeremy Foley about the possibility of retirement. About a month ago, he met with Mike Spiegler, the UF senior associate athletics director, to further discuss retirement options.

Alexander, who has coached at Florida longer than Foley has held his athletics director position, has brought success to the men's golf program, including eight SEC Championships and two NCAA Championships in 1993 and 2001. He has won eight SEC Coach of the



Alexander

Year honors and helped develop PGA Tour pros such as Chris DiMarco, Dudley Hart, Brian Gay, Billy Horschel, Matt Every and Camilo Villegas.

He is also UF's longest-tenured coach and is second all-time, behind only Dave Fuller, who coached

the baseball program for 28 seasons.

Prior to his time at UF, Alexander coached men's and women's golf at his alma mater, Georgia Southern, from 1977 to 1980 and men's golf at LSU from 1983 to 1987. He started at UF in January 1988.

"I came to Florida because I thought it gave me a great chance to compete," Alexander

said. "You get into coaching initially because you love golf, you love kids and you love to compete."

"Life and golf are so similar. There are many ups and downs and highs and lows. Today is one of those days that stir all kinds of emotion. It's sad that my time has come, but I'm happy everything worked out so well. I am in a good place, as will our golf program in the future."

Alexander's retirement will officially begin June 30, and Foley will soon begin a nationwide search for the next coach. Foley has said that Alexander is willing to help in any way he can.

"He's one of the all-time greats," Foley said in a release. "He's had a heck of a run. There's no better Gator than Buddy Alexander."



Stephanie Toft is leading the UF softball team's offense during its win streak. Read the story on page 29.

### Florida adds women's basketball commit

Northwest Florida State College guard Carla Batchelor signed a National Letter of Intent to play for UF next season. Batchelor averaged 12.1 points and 7.2 rebounds per game in 2013-14.

### Poll question

Is men's golf coach Buddy Alexander one of the five best coaches in Gators history? Vote online at [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).

**AS STEIN ON TV**

# *Editor enters adulthood as college career comes to end*

**M**y childhood is over. Not in the "Oh-no, I-just-understood-a-dirty-joke-in-my-favorite-childhood-movie" sense. It's legitimately over.

In fewer than two weeks from the time this is printed, I will cross the stage at the O'Connell Center and officially end my tenure at the University of Florida. After that, I have to make my way in this scary "real world" that I've heard so much about.

A few months after that, Derek Jeter — my favorite baseball player from my favorite baseball team — will do something similar, receiving his last ovation from fans at Yankee Stadium as an active player.

Jeter is the last on-field link I have to my childhood as a baseball fan.

When I started watching baseball as an 8-year-old kid in 2000, Jeter was the be-all, end-all for me. When I had to do a project about myself for my fifth-grade class, I pasted a Jeter baseball card to the "heroes" section.

So watching my one-time hero leave the playing field is strange for me.

I got a chance to see Jeter play for the last

time on Sunday in Tampa. He looked mostly the same. His inside-out swing still laced balls into right field.

But something was different. Something was off. He looked slow in the field, and he left an extra-inning game — against a division rival, no less — early.



**Adam  
Lichtenstein**

Twitter: @alichtenstein24

And like Jeter, it's time for me to move on to the next part of my life.

As an aspiring sports writer, I don't want to be watching games as a fan anymore. I want to be in the press box, watching them, analyzing them and sharing my insights with people.

My goal is to one day cover Major League Baseball for a living. I'm going to get a small taste of that this summer when I follow in the footsteps of several alligatorSports writers before me and make the 30-hour drive out to Phoenix to cover the Arizona Diamondbacks for MLB.com as part of its annual internship.

But to do that and continue toward my dream job, I need to make certain sacrifices — namely, my fandom.

That will have to do.

I have 299 bylines or other various entries in the Alligator archives. This is No. 300. I'm thankful for the chance to write every one of them. Each one, hopefully, moved me just a little bit closer to my dream.

The Alligator provided me with a chance to develop my reporting and writing abilities. I think I've gotten OK at them, and there are some people who helped me get where I am now. Here comes the cliché thank yous so you can tune out if you're not interested.

First, I want to thank Nina, who has seen me through all the stress related to the Alligator and listened to more rants about deadlines, writers, SIDs and the like than I would care to admit. She always has my back, and I can't thank her enough for that.

Obviously, I need to thank my parents and family. Without them, I quite literally wouldn't be here.

I need to give a shoutout to Joe Morgan, who decided to take a chance on a writer

fresh out of his first real writing class and put me on a beat. Thank you for being a great editor and friend. In addition, I'd like to thank Greg, Corey, Phillip, Katie, Landon, Pincus, Zoop, Jordan, Julia, Kelcee, Matt and everyone else who helped make my time with alligatorSports memorable.

Finally — and probably most cliché-y — I want to thank everyone who took the time to read my articles and columns.

I love when people tell me what they think of what I wrote, good or bad, praise or — my personal favorite — an email telling me that if ignorance is bliss, I must be very happy.

Last summer, I was standing in line at the Reitz Union Starbucks, and I heard a man reading my column to a woman he was sitting with. He was reading the words that I wrote down the night before.

That was an indescribable moment for me, and I try to take that into consideration whenever I write anything to be published.

Someone might be reading this to their friend or child or spouse, so I better make every word count.

Thanks for reading.

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# Florida hoping to continue momentum as USF matchup looms

► GATORS ARE ON A NINE-GAME WINNING STREAK.

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer @J\_McPherson1126

Tim Walton likes where his team is at with the regular season drawing to a close.

With a nine-game win streak and his team making strides at the right time, the ninth-year coach wants to see UF keep its pace.

"I always feel like this week and next week are two of the most important weeks of the season," Walton said. "We're definitely playing some of our best ball right now. It makes it a lot easier to go back to a good place if we do struggle the next couple weeks."

In Florida's road sweep against

Texas A&M last weekend — its first Southeastern Conference road sweep in its last five series — the Gators held the Aggies to just five runs while scoring 30 of their own.

"When we're all on and hitting, it's great," senior Stephanie Tofft said. "We go through the lineup, and everyone's up in the dugout, and it's just exciting when everyone's hitting. Especially at this point in the season since we're getting closer to postseason, it's great to have people coming up to bat and coming up big."

No. 3 Florida (40-8, 11-7 SEC) is now tasked with finishing its final four home games with a midweek matchup against South Florida (33-13, 7-5 American Athletic Conference) tonight at 6 and a three-game series against Missouri (35-12, 12-6

SEC) starting Friday.

UF faced USF to open the season, winning the contest 10-3 in Tampa.

"In the first game, we had the benefit of some

walks and some hit by pitches and a couple timely hits, but I definitely feel like (USF's) offense was really good," Walton said. "They showed some nice signs of being able to run a little bit, hit with some power up and down the lineup."

Added Tofft: "It's always a great series between us and them. They're a great team. They've got some good players, some good pitching, so we'll see how it goes."

Toft looks to continue her success from Florida's last series against Texas A&M.

In the Gators' three wins against the Aggies, she hit .700 with three home runs, notching 10 RBIs and six runs. Her performance not only made her the SEC Player of the Week, but also the NFCA National Player of the Week on Tuesday.

"It was really exciting to hit well all weekend. I was seeing the ball well, and it was really great to just get some hits," Tofft said. "I was really relaxed. Having our pitchers do a good job on the mound helps you swing a little more comfortably when you know they're doing their best."

Added Walton: "It's all about timing, I thought she really worked through all of her stuff and overcome maybe some preseason expectations that she might have had of herself."

Since transferring from Northern Illinois prior to her junior year, Tofft has been an active contributor for Florida.

The Lincoln, Calif., native started all 67 games in 2013 at third base — a position that she only had eight collegiate appearances at prior to earning the starting role at third for UF.

In her first year, she posted a .332 batting average, 53 RBIs and 18 doubles.

With seven regular season games left, Tofft has a .326 clip at the plate, a team-leading 51 RBIs and nine home runs.

"Even though we've only had [Toft] for two years, she's as big of a part of our success as anybody," Walton said.

"She's going to give you her all or nothing at all."

## THE ADAM BOMB

# Football Saturdays hold meaning for staffer

I never got the musical talents of my mother. She performed as a child with her musical-group family. I performed on the ball fields (or at least tried to).

It's something I have always shared with my father.

We both attended Palmetto High School in Miami, where his name is carved on an Athlete of the Year plaque from the early 1980s.

I used to periodically check out the trophy case during the school day to see if it was still there.

We both spent our Saturdays together watching Florida Gators football. I eagerly waited Sunday through Friday for the usual CBS kickoff and that catchy theme song. My adolescent years were spent receiving jabs from Miami Hurricanes fans, who always seemed to reappear when the wins piled up.

High school was spent div-

ying time between the school newspaper and the school baseball team. I turned to journalism once I became a UF student — where I also realized the baseball thing wouldn't work out.

I still watched games with my father, albeit six hours apart, with him dozing off in his leather chair back home and me sometimes dozing off in the press box watching the Gators try to score.

Once I started covering the team, the fervent bond built over the unlikely bounces on the football field began to dissipate.

When I graduate (the Van Wilder plan wasn't an option), I'll remember watching Connor Mitchell hit a game-winning single up the middle, or Tyler Murphy becoming the Swamp's



**Adam Pincus**

Twitter: @adamDpincus

savior for a Saturday. There's the roar that radiates from the O'Dome every time the younger Billy Donovan attempts a three-pointer, too.

Such minor moments don't mean much.

They're fleeting. They come and go if you don't pay attention. The same goes for those Saturdays back home where I would recreate the first-half highlights with my father outside.

The same goes for the yards holding two 5-year-old BCS National Championship tickets dangling on a doorknob in my room across from the Swamp.

They represent a memory; a time walking through the parking lot at Sun Life Stadium wearing that ticket like a badge of honor: My pops got me to the

big game.

This isn't a lecture on growing up watching college football with my father, although I feel fortunate that I did. It's more about finding that somebody no matter whom they are. Just make sure they're good at venting and listening.

Thinking back to the night of the Final Four earlier this month, I stood in a crowded bar at 101 Cantina with a drink in my left hand and my father on my right.

We could've made the 1,000-mile trip to the Final Four. I'm glad we didn't. He made the drive instead.

The drink of choice evolved from apple juice to gin and juice, but what hasn't changed is having a best friend to watch the game with.

While the reasons for watching may change, here's hoping that the people you watch it with don't.

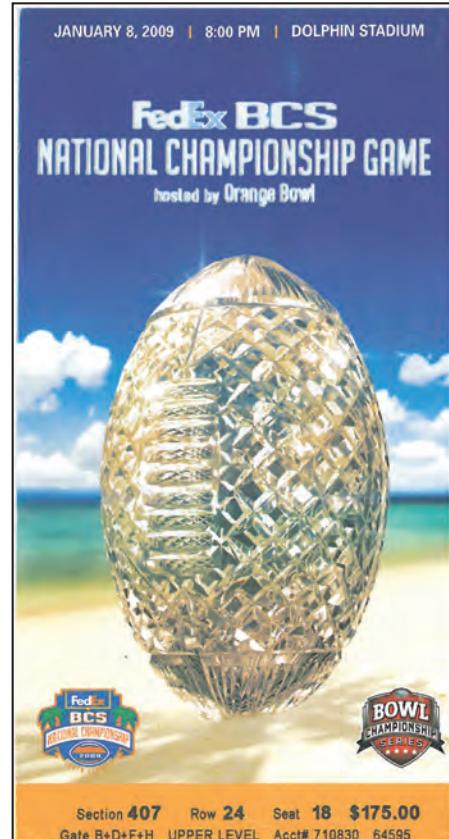


Photo courtesy to the Alligator

Above is the author's ticket from the 2009 BCS national title game.

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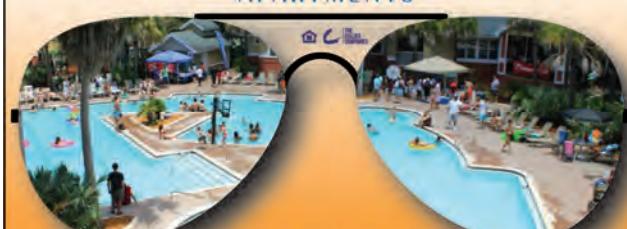


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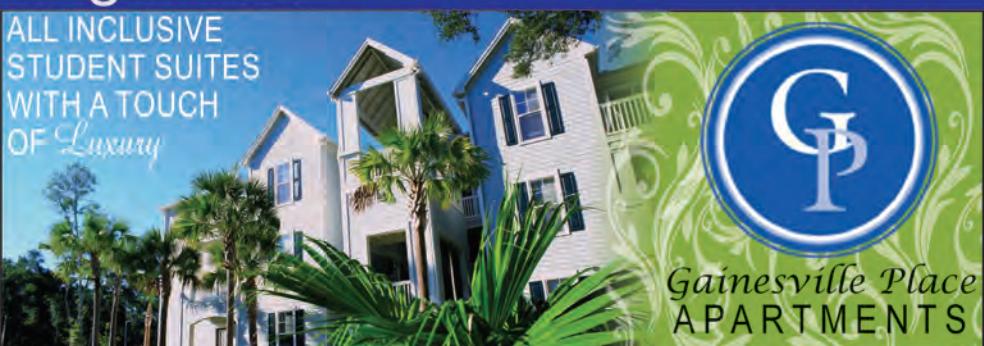
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## RECRUITING

# Three-star DB plans to visit Gators

**MORGAN MORIARTY**

Alligator Writer

@Morgan\_Moriarty

Good things come to those who wait, or so the saying goes. That adage couldn't be truer when it comes to high school recruiting.

For example, cornerback Jalen Thompson quickly went from being virtually unnoticed to being on everyone's radar.

"My recruiting process has blown up a lot. A year ago I had no offers, and now I have 25," Thompson said. "I can say I'm very blessed and I hope they keep coming."

UF offered Thompson, a student at Mobile (Ala.) St. Paul's High, a scholarship in February. Coach Will Muschamp likes the 2015 recruit's physicality at corner and playmaking ability on special teams.

"He says I have pretty good size, good speed and that I use my height to my advantage," Thompson said. "And he just loves the way I make plays and return punts for touchdowns."

Thompson has tentative plans to visit Florida this weekend depending on his high school baseball playoff schedule. His games last weekend forced him to reschedule last Saturday's planned trip to Gainesville.

Thompson has thought about playing both baseball and football while in college. He said that most coaches have told him he can play both..

That could pan out well for him if he chooses the Gators, whose baseball team has the No. 1 RPI in the nation and checked in at sixth in the latest Baseball America poll following a sweep of UGA last weekend.

UF defensive backs coach Travaris Robinson, commonly known to his players as "Coach T-Rob," has been heralded as the best recruiter on Florida's staff. Thompson said his relationship with Robinson runs deeper than just football.

"He talks to me on an everyday basis," Thompson said. "Not only about just coming to Florida, just asking how my schoolwork is going or baseball is going — everyday life."

UF has a talented young secondary heading into 2014. Sophomore All-American corner Vernon Hargreaves III anchors the group, and early enrollees Jalen

Tabor and Duke Dawson are looking to make an early impact. Thompson said although he likes the possibility of getting playing time early, it is an intimidating concept as well.

"It's very exciting but also nerve-wracking at the same time," he said. "But another year or so, they'll all be playing on ESPN with that good of a secondary."

Muschamp and his staff have molded several lockdown corners and shutdown safeties in their four years at Florida. Defensive backs Loucheiz Purifoy, Marcus Roberson and Jaylen Watkins are prospects in this year's NFL Draft. Josh Evans started in 11 games with the Jacksonville Jaguars as a rookie last season, and Matt Elam started in 15 in his

rookie season with the Baltimore Ravens.

Thompson, who is listed at 5-foot-11 and 170 pounds, returned two of his seven interceptions for touchdowns in 2013. He said defensive backs having professional success after UF serves as inspiration for him as a player.

"It's very exciting, and it gives me motivation that one day I could be like them or be even better than them," Thompson said.

Thompson plans to visit Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisville, Alabama and Auburn during the upcoming summer.

While UF's 4-8 finish in 2013 might have been a reason the coaching staff missed on some top recruits in the 2014 class, Thompson said he plans to stick with whichever team he commits to before the season kicks off on Aug. 23 regardless of its record.

Most of Thompson's family resides in Mobile, which means staying close to home is a factor in his recruiting process. But Thompson's family is supportive enough to let him go to whichever school fits him best — however far from Alabama that may be.

"I plan not to go over 10 hours [away] because that'd be hard for my parents to go to my games," Thompson said. "But if I really love the school my mom said she wouldn't mind driving that far or even flying up there every Saturday."

# Still swinging: Golfer returns to Gators after heart surgery

## ► BANKS BACK TO FORM FOLLOWING OPERATION.

**LAYNE WEITZEL**

Alligator Writer @laynejweitzel

Eric Banks has already overcome much more than any challenge he will face on the golf course.

"If I hit a bad shot or something like that, I know it's not the end of the world because I kind of almost know what the end of the world is," Banks said.

Banks, a junior, underwent open heart surgery after a routine physical during his freshman year of college at Florida. At the beginning of April, he won the 2014 David Toms Award, an annual honor presented by the Golf Coaches Association of America given to a male collegiate golfer who has overcome adversity to achieve athletic excellence.

"I was pretty excited when [Conrad Ray, the GCAA's national advisory board second vice president] first called me, and as soon as I found out, I called my parents right after, and they were all pumped up," Banks said.

It definitely is a different, happier time compared with Banks's first semester at UF in Fall 2011.

Before he began the 2011-12 season for Florida golf, Banks took a physical. It was then that doctors found a second heartbeat.

"I went in there, and the last thing was the heart guy [Dr. Beard]," Banks said. "I really hadn't had any heart issues previous to that, and he just kind of caught it before it got real bad."

Banks brushed off the physical results and played in three fall tournaments. His parents were still concerned and brought him home to Truro, a town in Nova Scotia, Canada, to be tested thoroughly.

Banks didn't find out the results of the tests until the SunTrust Gator

Invitational in February 2012. His parents made the trip down to tell him that he would need surgery to repair his heart, which had a hole between its two sides.

The junior admits now that he still didn't fully understand what was going on.

"At first, I didn't think it was a big deal at all," Banks said. "I obviously knew there was more to [heart surgery] than it sounded, but I didn't realize that I would not be playing competitive golf for nine months and couldn't even walk up the stairs in my own house, so I definitely didn't realize the magnitude of it when I first found out."

Because he didn't need to have the surgery right away, Banks finished out his freshman season of golf, playing in four regular-season tournaments, the Southeastern Conference Championship and the NCAA Regional and Championships. Two weeks after the season ended, he returned to Canada to undergo his surgery.

In the four-hour surgery, doctors cut open Banks' sternum, placed him on a heart-lung machine and began the surgery.

Banks remembers looking into the mirror before the procedure.

"It's kind of hard to put into words unless you're actually in that situation," he said. "If something went wrong, it could've been the last day that I was alive."

After the surgery, Banks stayed in the hospital for a week. He was then moved home, where he rested for three months.

"I was in a pretty rough place mentally anyway, so I didn't really want to do anything, so I just sat around all day, and it was awful," he said. "I was going crazy."

The only form of exercise Banks was allowed to partake in was his rehab, where he would do stretches

to keep his chest and sternum loose and walk in 30-second increments.

The then-sophomore decided to return to Florida for the fall semester even though he was still in rough shape.

"At the time it really didn't even seem like an option not to come back, so I just came back and didn't even think about it," he said.

Although Banks was in Gainesville, he wasn't physically ready to participate in any tournaments, which didn't affect coach Buddy Alexander.

"I was just more concerned with the safety and the health and the well-being of Eric in the long run," Alexander said. "Whatever he needed to do, it was fine with me. I sort of knew that he wouldn't be playing in the fall, but that was fine. That's small stuff compared to what he had going on."

When he first returned to Gainesville, Banks still suffered from an erratic heart rate and irregular blood pressure. He wasn't allowed to do much with golf other than chip and putt. By late September, though, he was allowed to take full swings and increased his stretching and cardio exercises.

"Our training staff here at UF [did] a terrific job of transporting him back and forth to the doctors and staying on top of it," Alexander said. "We just kind of eased him back into it."

Banks went to a check-up later in the fall, where he was told that his heart was fully healthy. He qualified for the 2013 SunTrust Gator Invitational, but Alexander chose to play him as an individual because the tournament called for playing 36 holes in one day. Banks finished tied for 10th place and went on to play in every tournament that spring.

Alexander doesn't see one of his best golfers as a victim, but as a tough and mature athlete.

"I think he dealt with it the same way you would deal with it, too," Alexander said. "If you had to do it, what's your option?"

Banks believes this experience has changed his perspective on life.

"I appreciate everything," he

said. "When the weather's nice I'll take a second to step back and just realize that everything in life is kind of not as bad as it may seem."

"I haven't felt this good since I was 10 years old probably, so it's pretty sweet."



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Eric Banks tees off during Day 2 of the SunTrust Gator Invitational on Feb. 16 at the Mark Bostick Golf Course.

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