

# alligator



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## Music festival debuts at UF with local, national artists



By Robert Lewis  
Alligator Staff Writer

A\$AP Ferg told women in the audience at The Wetlands Music Festival, who he called “Florida’s finest,” to get up on the shoulders of men near them. Event staff told them to get down.

“You all know how to mosh pit?” Ferg asked the crowd. “You’re alligators. You’ve got to know how to surf.”

The rapper was the main headliner at the first annual music festival by Student Government Productions. Saint Motel and Snakehips also performed Sunday on Flavet Field.

Ferg was paid \$65,000 to perform, while Snakehips was paid \$35,000 and Saint Motel was paid \$40,000, according to archives.

Keri Shapiro, the SGP chief of staff, said as of Friday, SGP sold more than 1,800 tickets, which cost \$15 for students and \$30 for non-students. As of press time, organizers had not counted how many tickets were sold at the gate.

Saint Motel performed first at about 5:30 p.m. The crowd grew until Ferg performed three hours later.

The event included a seven-band lineup of

The crowd claps along to Saint Motel’s “My Type” on Sunday afternoon at The Wetlands Music Festival, which was sponsored by Student Government Productions. More than 1,800 tickets were sold by Friday, according to an event organizer.

Taylor Marks / Alligator Staff

SEE WETLANDS, PAGE 4

## Gainesville man crashes stolen car into apartment complex

RESIDENTS IN THE BUILDING WERE TOLD TO EVACUATE FOR TWO WEEKS.

By Meryl Kornfield  
Alligator Staff Writer

Residents in one building at The Ridge at Gainesville are without power after a Gainesville man crashed a stolen car into the apartment complex near Butler Plaza, Gainesville Police said.

Ahmadric Ty’ree Stone, 19, was driving a stolen black BMW SUV south on Southwest 38th Terrace when he sped up and hit the side of Robert Bryce Haines’ 2016 Nissan Sentra, Haines said. The 23-year-old was turning left into the apartment complex, located at 3718 SW 24th Ave., at about 5 p.m.

After being hit, Haines said he saw Stone crash into the building before blacking out. The crash left Haines with head and shoulder injuries. Haines was taken to UF Health Shands Hospital for his injuries but was later released.

“I came back to my senses, and I realized we were hit,” the Gainesville resident said. “I

don’t know why he was in such a rush.”

After crashing into the side of an apartment building, Stone got out of the car and ran through the apartment complex, GPD Lt. Audrey Mazzuca said.

Mazzuca said multiple The Ridge residents called police to give updates on Stone’s whereabouts.

“This was awesome cooperation between citizens and law enforcement,” she said. “We had multiple citizens calling in. ‘He’s here, he’s there, he’s rolling over vehicles.’ We had officers who knew the area, who were in the right places at the right time.”

Jeffrey Haydu, a UF biology junior, was leaving his apartment to go to Publix when Stone ran into his garage and asked for help.

“He was saying ‘You got to help me, you got to help me. Someone’s trying to hurt me,’” Haydu said. “I told him I’d call the cops, and he said not to. I knew something was wrong.”

Haydu, 20, said Stone then got into the backseat of his car and crawled over the center console into the driver’s seat. He tried backing out of the garage but the driver’s door hit the garage door railing and broke halfway off

SEE RIDGE, PAGE 4

## UF students host cookie baking fundraiser for Parkland victims

By Amanda Rosa  
Alligator Staff Writer

UF students pinched, stuffed and baked more than 200 triangular-shaped cookies to support Parkland shooting victims Sunday night.

About 70 people participated in the baking event hosted by the Lubavitch Chabad Jewish Center, baking more than 350 cookies and raising more than \$500 for the families and victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. The money will be donated to Broward Education Foundation, said Chabad’s director Rabbi Berl Goldman. This fund is dedicated to providing relief and financial support to the tragedy’s victims and their families.

Gabby Schwartz, a UF accounting freshman, grew up baking cookies for the Jewish holiday Purim in her hometown of Parkland. The Stoneman Douglas alumna lived next door to Meadow Pollack, one of the 17 people killed in the shooting.

Although the news was devastating for Schwartz, she said she was glad to

see students support the victims.

“I think it’s amazing that even though it’s in south Florida, people in Gainesville and around the country are thinking of ways to give back to the victims’ families,” the 19-year-old said.

Chabad provided ingredients and instructions on how to make hamantaschen, which are triangular, jam-filled cookies, for Purim, a Jewish holiday that celebrates the freeing of the Jewish people from a high-ranking official in ancient Persia named Haman, who planned to kill them. Guests donated a minimum of \$5 and filled cookies with their choice of raspberry or apricot jam, dates, Nutella, chocolate chips or marshmallow fluff.

Rebecca Papilsky, 22, a UF public relations senior, organized the event with her friend Carly Weiss, a 21-year-old UF political science senior. Students from Vanderbilt University, Yale University and the University of Texas at Austin planned similar fundraisers for Parkland victims, and reached out to Papilsky and

SEE CHABAD, PAGE 4

### PITCH PERFECT: BARNHILL SPOTLESS AGAINST EAGLES

Florida pitcher Kelly Barnhill threw a perfect game against Georgia Southern on Sunday, pg. 14



### UF Admissions support high school protestors

Students who protest gun violence won’t be denied, pg 5

### Students celebrate Chinese New Year

See the photo story, pg 9

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## Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 82° LOW 63°

Local Events / News in Brief

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

#### My Fulbright in 7 Minutes

UF Fulbright Programs is holding its "My Fulbright in 7 Minutes" event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the UF International Center in the Hub. Event attendees will network with U.S. and international Fulbright participants. To RSVP, please email UFFulbrightRSVP@gmail.com. For more information, email mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu.

#### 'Law in the Library: Restoration

#### of Civil Rights Workshops'

The Alachua County Library District is partnering with the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association to present "Law in the Library: Restoration of Civil Rights Workshops" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. March 22 at Cone Park Library Branch, located at 2801 E. University Ave. Attorneys from Josiah T. Walls Bar Association and law students from the Levin College of Law will help people who have been convicted of a felony and are interested in applying to have their civil rights restored. For more information,



Have an event planned? Add it to the **alligator's** online calendar: [alligator.org/calendar](http://alligator.org/calendar)

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#### Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to [jtavel@alligator.org](mailto:jtavel@alligator.org).

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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The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of



announces the opening of the following positions for the summer semester:

## Editor

a paid position as head of the Editorial Division and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors

## Managing Editor/Print and Managing Editor/Online

paid positions and unpaid members of the Board of Directors.

The applications for these positions are available at the Alligator office, located at 2700 SW 13th Street, **each weekday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from now until Friday, March 2.** Look for the Alligator sign located in the lobby. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. No phone calls, please. Allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information regarding the application process. The application must be returned to The Alligator by **Tuesday, March 13 at 4 p.m. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE.** Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at the new Alligator offices in a meeting open to the public on **Friday April 6 at 9 a.m.** Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience with The Independent Florida Alligator.

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# UF committee approves seven resolutions for Senate vote

By **Christina Morales**  
Alligator Staff Writer

The UF Student Government Senate Judiciary Standing Committee unanimously passed seven resolutions and failed one amendment Sunday.

The resolutions will be taken for a vote by the Senate on Tuesday.

Two resolutions in support of UF's Other Personnel Service, or OPS, workers were passed after an earlier Senate meeting in February, when members and supporters of the Alachua County Labor Coalition spoke on behalf of the workers.

Currently, OPS workers are paid by the hour and are not given benefits. During UF's emergency closures, like Hurricane Irma, the workers were not compensated for the forced time off.

One resolution called for UF's human resources department to create a system of paid administrative leave, or a similar policy, so OPS workers could make up hours in case of future emergency closures.

The second resolution would ask UF's human resources department to reclassify OPS workers who have been in their position for more than a year as Technical, Executive, Administrative and Managerial Support employees, which would allow them to receive benefits.

Timothy Tia, a UF economics senior, said OPS workers are critical to helping UF function efficiently.

"These resolutions are important because UF workers are just as much a part of the university

as the students," the 21-year-old said. "Hopefully it will let administration and HR know people care about OPS workers and put a higher priority on their issues."

The meeting's only failed legislation was a second attempt to increase the representation of minority parties in Senate committees. In early February, Senator Olin Calvin tried to pass an amendment that would limit the amount of committees senators can serve on from two to one, according to Alligator archives. The newly presented amendment would have required a quota for minority parties and independent candidates on committees.

Minority Party Leader Nathan Morse said he and other Inspire Party members are planning on submitting another amendment to the committee.

"Committee seats ought to reflect what the students want," he said. "The Judiciary Committee's decision is essentially shutting out representatives that the Student Body thinks should be there."

Senator Jonathan Nickas (Accounting, Impact) said the amendment failed to pass because it would interfere with the Replacement and Agenda Committee's ability to choose the most qualified candidates.

"I'd love to see some people from the other parties get more involved in the committees, so not just applying for the committees but getting a good background in them," said Nickas, who also serves as vice chairman of the committee.

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Taylor Marks / Alligator Staff

## RUNNING FOR THE ORANGE AND BLUE

Matthew Wyers, a 19-year-old UF biomedical engineering freshman, finishes in second place at The Gator Run on Hume Field on Saturday morning.

The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of

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# Residents were sent to live in vacant apartments in the complex

## RIDGE, from pg. 1

the car.

Stone jumped out of the passenger door window and ran off, with police following. Haydu called police but officers only responded to his apartment, which is about 500 feet from the building Stone crashed into, after they detained Stone. This was about 15 to 20 minutes after the attempted carjacking. Haydu said the scene in his garage was fast.

"It was like out of a movie," he said.

Officers eventually stopped Stone about a mile from the apartment complex at the Outback Steakhouse on Butler Plaza, located at 3760 SW Archer Road.

Stone was taken to UF Health Shands Hospital for medical issues he complained of after running. GPD later charged him with unarmed carjacking, hindering communication with police and resisting arrest without violence, Mazzuca said. The car Stone crashed into was reported stolen to Alachua County Sheriff's Office. Mazzuca said she did not

know when the car was stolen or where it was stolen from.

Stone was taken to the Alachua County Jail on Sunday morning and is being held without bond, pending a first appearance today.

Stone also hit the building's electrical box, knocking it over and onto the ground, shutting off power to all of the apartments in that building. Katherine Gonzalez, a UF biochemistry and political science sophomore, woke up her roommate, Maria Moriyon, a UF veterinary graduate student, at about 7 p.m. when she came home and the power was off. Gonzalez and Moriyon were told by The Ridge management they needed to evacuate for two weeks for repairs and inspections.

Clutching flashlights in their hands Saturday night, Gonzalez and Moriyon hurried to gather their belongings to move to another building. Moriyon, who has an exam today, is worried about moving to a new place.

The apartment management is providing empty apartments in the community to residents who were evacuated, Gonzalez said.

"They are really being nice about it considering that this was so random," Gonzalez said.

@merylkornfield



Courtesy to The Alligator

Police said Ahmadric Ty'ree Stone, 19, crashed a stolen car into The Ridge at Gainesville, an apartment complex at 3718 SW 24th Ave., at about 5 p.m. Saturday. The building lost power, and residents will be evacuated for two weeks.

# They raised more than \$500 for families and victims of the shooting



Amanda Rosa / Alligator

UF students make hamantaschen, Jewish triangular jam-filled cookies, at a baking event hosted by the Lubavitch Chabad Jewish Center to raise money for Parkland shooting victims Sunday night.

## CHABAD, from pg. 1

Weiss to spread the idea to UF.

An online preorder form let people order cookies, which Papilsky and Weiss will deliver Monday.

Papilsky said the shooting was tragic, but she's excited to see UF students take action for gun control.

"It's sad that it had to take something like this to get young people to take action, but it is a really exciting time," she said. "I think that anyone participating really has a chance to make a difference."

Goldman said the night was a great chance for UF students affected by the tragedy to express love and support for each other and the victims.

"We're very proud to be able to do this, but we're more proud to see the students themselves coming out on a Sunday night for a good cause," he said.

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# The music festival included seven bands, local and national

## WETLANDS, from pg. 1

local and national talent, which performed on two stages, "We wanted to diversify the genres of the different talents and give an opportunity for local talents to perform as well," Shapiro, a 21-year-old UF advertising senior, said.

The event also featured eight food options, including PDQ and Cilantro Taco, and 17 activity and club booths. Among the booths was a "silent disco," where attendees could listen through headphones to music DJs playing in front of them, and a table for the Wetlands Club, a UF club dedicated to cleaning and preserving wetlands and coastlines.

A/J Jackson, Saint Motel's lead singer, walked onto the stage with a Gator flag draped over his neck before his set began. During his performance, Jackson told concertgoers to Gator Chomp to the beat of "Puzzle Pieces."

He ended the band's set by thanking the student organizers and telling the crowd "it's

great to be a Gator."

While Snakehips deejayed on Flavet Field's stage, roughly 1,000 people passed a six-foot alligator pool float and an inflated three-foot-tall condom.

Cullen Bryant and two friends drove nearly 70 miles from Jacksonville to hear their favorite indie-pop band, Saint Motel.

The 21-year-old looked out into the crowd and said more people should have attended to hear national performers on campus.

"We saw (Saint Motel) a little while ago and loved it. We knew we had to make the trip to see them again," Bryant said.

Shapiro said organizers expected 3,000 attendees.

"This was the first Wetlands concert," Shapiro said. "We're hoping it will continue in the future."

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# UF group kicks off walks with doctors, patients

By Kaylee Weber

Alligator Contributing Writer

Physicians traded their white lab coats Saturday for workout gear to talk to patients while taking laps around a track.

About 20 community members, including doctors and nurses, attended the UF Integrative Health and Medicine Interest Group's kick-off Walk with a Doc event. Walk with a Doc is a national organization that has hundreds of chapters nationwide.

The new Gainesville chapter will meet every other Saturday morning at the Santa Fe College Track, located at 3000 NW 83rd St., to promote active living and build relationships with local physicians, said Albert Barrera, the Gainesville walk leader and organizer.

"This organization will help bind both people that are concerned for their health and doctors that are on a mission to improve the health of their patients," Barrera, 23, said.

Barrera, with the help of Dr. Amy Sheer, a third-year UF Health resident physician, applied for a \$1,500 grant through the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, Sheer said. After receiving the money, about \$500 of the grant

was used to start the chapter.

The event Saturday began with Sheer giving tips on how to stay healthy, such as doing squats while cooking.

They then set out on a 45-minute walk around the track at their own pace.

"Exercise adds years to your life and more importantly adds life to your years," Sheer said.

The national Walk with a Doc organization was started in 2005 by Dr. David Sabgir, a cardiologist based in Columbus, Ohio. He said he founded it when he realized only three percent of his new patients were achieving their recommended physical activity guidelines.

What started as a simple walking event in Columbus has grown to about 370 chapters nationwide, including the new Gainesville chapter, Sabgir said.

"You're gonna have more fun than you would expect," Sabgir said.

Reagan McKendree, a 22-year-old UF second-year medical student, said she hopes to be a doctor who connects with her patients like the ones at the event.

"It helps patients engage with their doctors and see them outside of just in the clinic with their white coats," McKendree said.

# Teenager stunned by UPD outside law school

By Meryl Kornfield

Alligator Staff Writer

A man was stunned by University Police for resisting arrest Friday, authorities said.

Joseph Michael Allen, 18, of Pembroke Pines, was drinking with his girlfriend in the Springs Residential Complex when he became aggressive and left the UF dorm at about 10 p.m., according to an arrest report. His girlfriend tried to hold the door closed, and Allen jerked the door open, ripping off his girlfriend's toenail.



Allen

Allen punched walls and shattered a car's rear window outside, according to the report. The damage to the window was estimated at \$200. A police officer found Allen in the

Levin College of Law parking lot and ordered him to stop. Allen ignored the officer and continued walking away, police said. When the officer tried to detain him, Allen pulled away, according to the report.

The officer said Allen violently attempted to get his hands free when he was detained on the ground. At one point, he turned around and spat in the officer's face, according to the report. The officer used a stun gun to stun Allen until he complied, according to the report.

Allen was arrested on charges of disorderly intoxication, battery on an officer, resisting arrest and property damage. He was taken to the Alachua County Jail where he was released Sunday on his own recognizance. He could not be reached for comment.

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# Deputies: Man arrested for sexual battery on 14-year-old

By Robert Lewis

Alligator Staff Writer

A Gainesville man who worked as a security guard at Hawthorne High School was arrested Friday for molesting a 14-year-old student, Alachua County Sheriff's Office said.

Hiram Demenico Jackson, 24, picked up the teenage girl after she snuck out of her Hawthorne house and gave her a Four Loko, an alcoholic malt beverage, according to an arrest report. After she was drunk, he had sex with her and then returned her home, police said.

She told police the rape happened in a park in Hawthorne, but she didn't know the exact location because she was drunk, police said. She said she met Jackson again the next day and he raped her a second time, according to the report.

She told police Jackson works at her school as a security guard and mentor, according to the report. She said she knows him and speaks with him often on social media and in school, police said.

Jackson was not employed by the school district but by a private security firm, Jackie Johnson, the Alachua County Public Schools spokesperson, wrote in an email. He only worked at one basketball game, Johnson said.

Jackson was charged with giving liquor to someone under 21, lewd and lascivious molestation and two counts of sexual battery on a minor. He was taken to the Alachua County Jail where he remains, as of press time, in lieu of a \$502,000 bond.

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# UF says protesting is not a 'negative' for its admissions

By Amanda Rosa

Alligator Staff Writer

High school students who protest against gun violence will not be denied admission into UF, university officials said Saturday.

UF Admissions announced its support of high school students' First Amendment rights to expression and peaceful protest through social media. The admissions office said it will review student conduct leading to expulsions or suspensions on a case-by-case basis, according to a tweet.

"UF supports the First Amendment right to freedom of expression, including by peaceful and lawful protest," the tweet reads. "We would not consider participating in such a protest a negative in our admission process."

High schools around the country have threatened suspension or expulsion if students walk out of class to protest in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting nearly two weeks ago.

About 100 colleges and universities have put out statements ensuring high school students will not be penalized for protesting

when evaluated by admission officials.

UF Admissions deleted its first tweet on the subject and then reposted five minutes later in order to fit its entire statement within Twitter's character limit, UF spokesperson Steve Orlando said.

Marley Penson, a 17-year-old Miami Beach Senior High School senior, said UF's statement relieved her. She and hundreds of her fellow school students walked out of the school Wednesday afternoon despite disapproval from the school's administration.

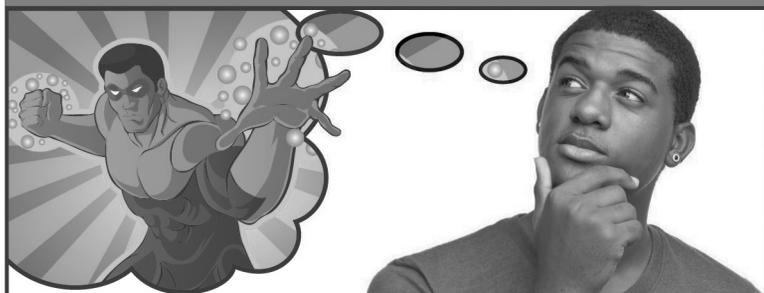
"As a future student of UF, it's very comforting and nice to hear that it wouldn't affect my admission," she said. "I've worked so hard all throughout high school, and UF has always been my No. 1 choice since I could remember."

She said she thinks high schools are ridiculous to discourage students from voicing their concerns.

"We're going to stand up for what we believe in," she said.

@AmandaNicRosa  
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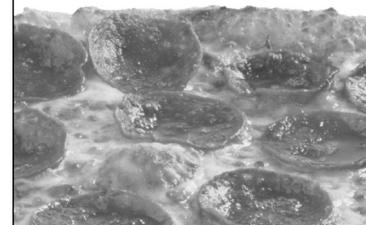
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## Editorial

## UF must treat OPS workers better

**B**eneath the surface of UF's seemingly well-run campus are the people who make it happen. We are talking about the secretaries, the adjuncts and even the custodians who work every day to make sure UF students have the best experiences possible.

Unfortunately, these indispensable members of our campus community are often not treated with respect. These employees, lumped under the blanket term, "Other Personnel Services," or "OPS" workers, are defined by UF as at-will, temporary labor. However, the U.S. Department of Labor defines a temporary employee as "an appointment lasting one year or less."

OPS workers at UF do not receive paid vacation or sick leave. They are all mandated to pay into the alternative Federal Insurance Contribution Act system, with UF contributing no money to their Social Security. They are generally prohibited from making up hours lost during times UF is closed, since the workers have strict weekly hour limits. This reduction in pay can leave many scrambling to make ends meet and has the ability to leave others without health insurance if their hours fall below 30 per week because the Affordable Care Act requires workers to maintain a 40-hour workload per week.

A common misconception about OPS positions is they are mainly filled by students for a short period of time. However, about 68 percent of them are older than 25. Furthermore, the average non-student OPS worker has been employed at UF for nearly four years. As follows, many OPS employees are actually older adults, many of whom may support families and dependents, who have held their positions long term.

Of the 3,320 non-student hourly OPS workers who were employed in 2017, 612 had started before 2012. This means nearly one in five workers had been employed for close to five years and were still not receiving common benefits. Of the 25 workers in this category who started at UF before 1980, only two have state health insurance. None of these employees will be eligible for retirement benefits.

Compensation is another concern. Although UF's human resources department has made a commitment to a "fair and competitive compensation strategy," OPS workers are excluded from UF's salary increase plans. This might be particularly challenging for student workers, many of whom, according to the UF Student Financial Affairs office, rely on their wages to pay their tuition and fund their general livelihood.

UF divides hourly workers into two categories: OPS and TEAMS, or Technical, Executive, Administrative and Managerial Support. Those employed through TEAMS are subject to perks such as higher wages and overall better treatment. This division has led to OPS workers being frequently forgotten about and left behind.

In 2016, when UF passed a policy change moving the starting wage for TEAMS workers to \$12 an hour, OPS workers saw no improvement for themselves.

The Alachua County Labor Coalition is calling for an end to the mistreatment of OPS employees. The group has submitted resolutions to Faculty Senate and Student Senate requesting UF to move OPS employees to TEAMS or another classification with benefits when employed in a position for longer than one year.

This, to us, does not seem like too much to ask for and we hope that you, dear reader, are able to support this resolution and help to get OPS workers the treatment they deserve. As a university that boasts its "top-10" status, UF should be held to a high standard not only in terms of academics, but also in terms of its overall operation. It should be respecting its workers and ensuring everyone in the UF community is treated fairly.

Melissa Gomez	Abby Miller	Caitlin Ostroff	Jimena Tavel
EDITOR	OPINIONS EDITOR	MANAGING EDITOR, ONLINE	MANAGING EDITOR, PRINT

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## Column

## Let's show compassion to those who survive tragedies

**L**ast semester, I wrote a column urging stricter gun control measures after the horrific shooting in Las Vegas. Since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School two weeks ago, I have struggled to find words.

At first, I wanted to share my old column again as a sort of "screw you" to the elected officials who let this happen again, not dissimilar to the way The Onion shares the same satirical "No way to prevent this" article after each mass shooting. I wanted to simultaneously scream, listen, cover my ears, throw away my cell phone and scroll through Twitter because I couldn't look away.

But now, two weeks later, young people all over the country are taking action, and I want to follow their lead with my vote, my social media accounts, my column — anything I can use to spread the word. In addition to that, I want to add my voice to the chorus demanding change and solutions. This column will explore that last part: the potential solutions we have, particularly within education, when we confront the issue of gun control, the Second Amendment and where and how that intersects with mental health and age.

I want to make this clear before we begin: I acknowledge mental health issues play a role, but this will not be a column about mental health. When we tag mass shootings as primarily the result of mental health problems, we (1) diminish, polarize and demean those with nonviolent mental health issues and (2) neglect the other factors that allow these tragedies to occur. OK, disclaimer over.

What sparked the angle for this column was another column I read in The New York Times this week called "The Boys Are Not All Right," written by Michael Ian Black. In his column, Black explores how we educate boys and men, beginning with the way we treat them as children and come to define masculinity. In particular, he discusses society's simultaneous emphasis on "male" traits like aggression, assertiveness and dismissal of emotional expression.



**Mia Gettenberg**  
opinions@alligator.org

This caused me to think about how we should treat students grieving or working through trauma following mass violence, especially violence caused by a male teenager. It's important we as friends, family members, parents, teachers, mentors and even classmates recognize the differential treatment we provide girls and boys growing up, especially in our educational system, and ensure that everyone feels supported regardless of their identities.

We praise boys for their physical strength and talents, for taking challenges "like men," for "taking care" of their sisters, mothers and female friends. Girls, on the other hand, are meant to look pretty, cute and dainty, to perform service tasks like cleaning and passing out papers in the classroom. Think of the phrases we use: cry like a girl, throw like a girl, run like a girl. These antiquated, sexist expressions and modes of thinking hurt both boys and girls.

When the places we think are safe, the places that ought to be safe — school classrooms — become violent, we need to address the way we educate the children, adolescents and teens within their walls. We need to prioritize emotional expression. We need to tell girls and boys alike it's OK to grieve or feel angry. We need to show them safe, nonviolent outlets for their thoughts and emotions: journals, letters, voting, activism, sports, art and music, to name a few.

Next time, think before you say the words "man up" in front of a child. Encourage children to pursue their talents and passions regardless of the gender norms that surround those activities. In the wake of violent tragedies, we need to support kids and families. We need to make sure they never happen again. This is not the only way to do it, and it won't solve everything. But could it really hurt us to show a little more compassion?

*Mia Gettenberg is a UF criminology and philosophy senior. Her column focuses on education.*

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

Column

# Stop the conspiracy theories and start showing support for crisis survivors

**W**henever there's a big enough crisis, there is a good amount of collateral to follow. The media explodes, and conspiracy theorists fly into the picture from every direction. Was Lee Harvey Oswald the only gunman involved in former President John F. Kennedy's assassination? Was 9/11 an inside job?



**Taylor Cavaliere**  
opinions@alligator.org

However, these theorists don't stop at just the crisis itself. Another common aspect following tragedies is the concept of "crisis actors." Some people believe those who show up in the news after a crisis are paid actors who were not actually involved in the tragedy. Examples of these theories have surfaced after dozens of horrible events, from the Pulse nightclub shooting to the Boston Marathon bombing. Most recently, of course, theorists are talking about the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

These allegations are disgusting and disrespectful.

When a tragedy occurs, there are always people who survive it and continue to be affected by it. Many battle the demons of grief, survivor's guilt or post-traumatic stress disorder. They struggle every day but are often forgotten about in the aftermath.

As a society, we often neglect to remember direct victims are not the only ones who are hurting. There are plenty of people struggling with their mental stability, and they need to be focused on. Pain and suffering are not always visible, and just because you can't see the wound or have undeniable evidence someone was at a horrific event doesn't mean they weren't.

The idea of crisis actors disrespects survivors who are living with heartache.

Theorists have speculated that after tragedy, people who appear on TV after the incidents look very similar to those who have appeared after other tragedies. Some people think those who rise up out of the wreckage

were never actually in the wreckage at all.

In their minds, these survivors are lying. They're just showing up for fame and drama, speaking out about events to push an agenda or to get air time on national television. There is a rumor floating around that some of the students who say they survived the Stoneman Douglas shooting aren't actually students, but actors being paid to appear on TV and pretend they were.

While I appreciate that people question the information they are given and don't just believe anything they see on TV, I think it is senseless that rather than being sympathetic to the survivors of the shooting, people are sitting comfortably behind computer screens, starting rumors about children who lived through hell and are trying to tell their stories.

Mental health following a tragedy is important. Not only do we need to ensure those we lost are properly remembered, but we must also take care of and protect the survivors. They will never be the same again, no matter how put together they seem to be on the outside. Their mental health is in a delicate state, and for many of these kids, throwing their hearts and souls into the #NeverAgain and #MarchForOurLives movements is how they are choosing to cope. It may seem unorthodox to you, but this is their choice.

Quite frankly, it's not about the third-party observers right now. So, for the sake of the mental well-being of these kids and their families, stop the conspiracy theories. They are survivors and they are trying to make their way through the rest of their lives just like the rest of us.

Rather than questioning the reality of their pain, show them the support they deserve. Let's be proud of them for sharing their pain.

*Taylor Cavaliere is a UF journalism and psychology junior. Her column focuses on mental health.*

Column

# Diversity rises in the Winter Olympics

**T**his year's Winter Olympics exhibits more black athletes than we've seen in previous years. Not only that, but these games have smashed the stereotype that black athletes solely dominate in basketball or track and field. Black athletes represent less than 3 percent of all Winter Olympians this year; however, their increasing attendance challenges the classic image of a winter athlete.



**Madisyn Jones**  
opinions@alligator.org

Shani Davis, with four medals already under his belt, is competing this year as a speed skater for Team USA. A man of firsts, Davis was the first black athlete to win a medal at the Winter Olympics. Many have anticipated his performance, but the public initially criticized him for skipping the opening ceremonies after he lost the opportunity to be America's flag bearer on a coin toss and declined his invitation to the event due to the lack of respect. Nevertheless, Davis has already set nine world records and will perform to the best of his abilities in his last Winter Olympic games. Davis' speed skating career set the stage for later speed skating athletes of color and pioneered DC-ICE (DC Inner City Excellence), a speed skating program for the inner city kids of Washington, D.C.

Maame Afua Biney, the first African American woman to qualify for the U.S. Olympic speed skating team, also races down the path for gold in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Originally born in Ghana, Biney started skating when she moved to Virginia near the age of six. About 10 years later, she has made tremendous improvement and qualified for the Olympics at the early age of 17.

Biney's teammate, Erin Jackson, will debut as the first African American woman to compete in Olympic long-track skating and definitely will not be the last. Jackson qualified for the team with only four months of experience, a feat most athletes dream of. She grew up in Ocala and found the sport af-

ter years of inline skating. Jackson also graduated from UF.

Jordan Greenway also makes history as the first African American on the U.S. hockey team. He grew up in New York City, New York, where there were ice rinks all over town. As such, he spent a lot of time skating as a child. Being one of the few black kids on

the ice didn't bother him. He says "There wasn't a lot of African Americans playing and I think, honestly, outside of my brother and I, I can't think of a ton ... so I just kind of grew up around it and it was kinda the norm." Black athletes have to learn to desensitize themselves when their sports lack diversity.

There are also athletes outside the U.S. making strides for their own countries. Vanessa James comes back to the Winter Olympics with her partner, Morgan Cipres, after making their debut as the first black figure skating pair at the last Winter Olympics. Nigeria's bobsled team features past athletes who converted from track and field Olympians. There are also teams from African countries like Ghana, Kenya and Eritrea making their first appearance in Pyeongchang.

Greenway, Biney and Davis found their sports naturally. The lack of diversity within winter sports was not a deterrent from their progress because the sport itself was the prime concern. When a child of color sees a black figure skater win gold at the Olympics, it creates aspiration and encourages them to try for the same success. Seeing athletes of color inspires the youth to go out and try something new, which emphasizes how influential a person's presence can be.

The quest for self improvement and athletic success outweighs the racial homogeneity, which serves as a common theme in all their stories.

*Madisyn Jones is a UF accounting sophomore. Her column focuses on black culture.*

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# The Wetlands: Spring semester concert premieres at UF

By Taylour Marks  
Alligator Staff



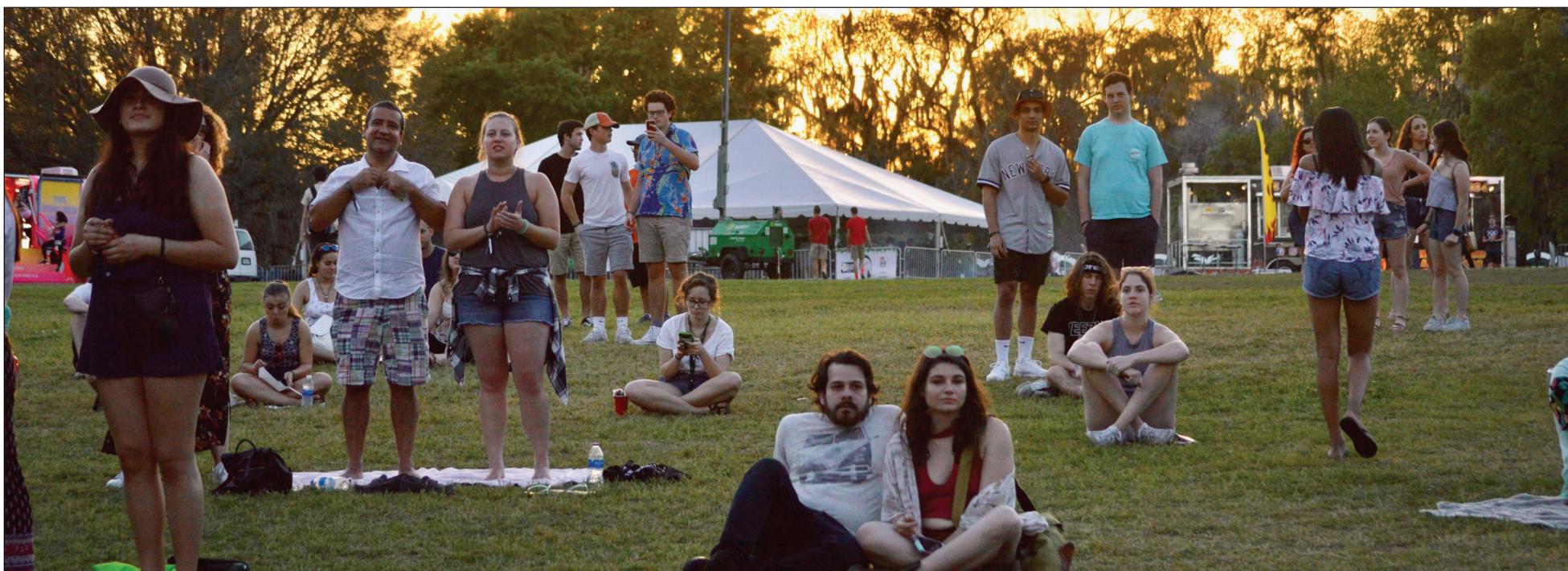
Jacksonville-based band Flipturn performs for a crowd Sunday at The Wetlands Music Festival held on Flavel Field. The event was the first music festival sponsored by Student Government Productions.



A group of students dance at a "Silent Disco" held during The Wetlands Music Festival on Sunday. The event featured headlining artist A\$AP Ferg, food trucks, an art walk and many other activities.



Anna James of the electronic music duo, Retrolux, performs for a crowd during Sunday's Wetlands Festival at Flavel Field. The Gainesville-based group is a product of Swamp Records and has been performing since 2012.



Festival attendees watch performances from the lawn of Flavel Field as the sun sets Sunday afternoon. About 250 people arrived during the first half of the event.

# UF students hold gala to celebrate the Chinese New Year

Photos By Steph Strickland  
Alligator Staff

By Jessica Curbelo  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Hundreds of people gathered to watch the celebration of the Chinese New Year on Sunday.

The Chinese Student Association, a UF student organization, hosted the Chinese Spring Festival Gala in the Phillips Center for Performing Arts. Between 700 and 800 tickets were handed out prior to the event, said Yifei Liu, the club's president.

Hosts spoke in both English and Chinese languages, although the performances were primarily in Chinese.

The budget for the show was \$18,000, with the main cost being for the venue, said the association's spokesperson, Zhonglin Lai. Student Government and the consulate general of the People's Republic of China funded the event. The spokesperson declined to say how much money came from each source.



The event, called the Year of the Dog: Spring Festival Gala, took place at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts on Sunday. It featured performances including dances, crosstalk, solos, chorus, witty skits and a cappella. About 800 tickets to the show were distributed on Turlington Plaza last week.



A dancer from the UF Chinese Student Association Dance Club performs in a piece titled "Zhi Zi Yugui + Cry Cry" while wearing traditional Chinese garments in honor of the new year inside the Phillips Center for Performing Arts on Sunday night.



Performing in the traditional garments associated with China and the Spring Festival, this dancer twirls across the stage in the final part of a play titled "To the Edge."

# A night of a cappella: UF hosts international competition

By Alan Alvarez  
Alligator Photographer



The Sedoctaves, a UF female a cappella group founded in 2005, perform at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella South Quarterfinals inside the Phillips Center for Performing Arts on Saturday night. More than 450 people attended the event.



Caleigh Molner, an alto member of No Southern Accent, UF's "premier co-ed a cappella" group founded in 2001, performs Saturday at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella South Quarterfinals.



Tone Def, UF's co-ed a cappella group founded in 2012, perform at the quarterfinals. Ten a cappella groups from University of Central Florida, Florida International University and UF competed Saturday night. The top two teams, Mixed Mode and Gemini Blvd., from UCF, will advance to the semifinal.



Standing Room Only, UF's jazz and contemporary a cappella group established in 2013, performed at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella South Quarterfinals inside the Phillips Center for Performing Arts on Saturday night.

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## SOFTBALL

# PITCH PERFECT: Barnhill spotless against Eagles

By Mari Faiello  
Sports Writer



Alligator File Photo

Kelly Barnhill didn't realize she'd thrown a perfect game until her teammates started congratulating her. "You never think about it while you're doing it," she said.

The sounds of about 1,600 clapping Gators fans resounded throughout Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium as Kelly Barnhill readied herself for her final throw of the day.

She took a deep breath and exhaled with a grunt as she fired the pitch from the circle.

Georgia Southern's Hannah Farrell swung and missed, the ball finding its way into catcher Janell Wheaton's glove.

Barnhill had just completed her first career perfect game and the eighth in program history.

"I wasn't really thinking about that," Barnhill said. "The rule is you never think about it while you're doing it, you just really try to live in the moment and go pitch by pitch, and that's what we did today."

With the help of Barnhill's perfect pitching against the Eagles, Florida's softball team (16-1) swept its doubleheader on Sunday, defeating Iowa State 3-0 and Georgia Southern 8-0 on Day 3 of the Aquafina Invitational.

Barnhill shared the circle with utility player Aleshia Ocasio.

Ocasio threw 100 pitches against the Cyclones, allowing six hits and no runs, while Barnhill capped off her spotless outing with 11 strikeouts.

"(Barnhill has) been thinking a lot with her pitches and stuff," catcher Janell Wheaton said. "But once she has her rise ball, she's good and going. She had that today at all different levels."

In the Gators' matchup against Iowa State,

SEE **SOFTBALL**, PAGE 16

## Morgan Meets the Eye / Opinion

# What if the 2018 Gators football team sucks?



Morgan McMullen  
Twitter: @MorganMcMuffin

Imagine this scenario: It's Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018. The U.S. midterm elections have rocked the political world one way or the other. You're probably still stuffed from that huge Thanksgiving feast, yet thankful that you've left your weird uncle's house and returned to Gainesville. And the Gators football team, led by coach Dan Mullen, is floundering down the stretch of a once-promising season. Mullen decides to start Feleipe Franks at quarterback against Florida State after some rough outings from freshman Emory Jones. Mullen still has a shot at a bowl bid in his first season as head coach, but he needs to win against the Seminoles.

He loses. Badly.

UF misses out on a bowl game for two consecutive seasons for the first time since 1986.

How does the university respond? How does the fanbase respond? How do you respond?

Probably very poorly on all fronts.

The university, for all the PR work it has to accomplish, will laude the positives and diminish the negatives. Press releases will push glowing reviews on how Jones took his first steps to growing into a fine starter, or how running back Jordan Scarlett reformed his character in light of his previous legal issues. Nary a negative word will make its way out of the University Athletics Association.

Granted, that is exactly what is expected of the UAA. It isn't there to push dirt out into the open, and I don't begrudge it for doing its job. But at the same time, tough questions would need to be asked after a potentially terrible season such as the one Gators fans experienced in 2017. The university cannot ask those questions.

The fanbase can.

Folks have already called for basketball coach Mike White's resignation/firing, and that's coming off of an Elite Eight appearance last year and wins against No. 18 Kentucky and No. 12 Auburn. The expectations Florida fans have are notoriously unreasonable. Coach Urban Meyer, winner of two of UF's three national championships, was admitted to a Gainesville hospital with chest pains because of the amount of stress he endured, presumably from overbearing fans.

SEE **COLUMN**, PAGE 16

## BASEBALL

# Florida's offense goes cold in loss to Hurricanes

By Ethan Bauer  
Sports Writer

Palm trees bristled and clay clouded the air on Sunday in Coral Gables.

No, there were no windy thunderstorms or breezy afternoon flurries. There were, however, whooshing gusts caused by repeated swings and misses from both the Gators and the Hurricanes.

The teams combined for 24 strikeouts in Sunday's series finale at Alex Rodriguez Park, but Miami notched some timely hits while No. 1 Florida left nine runners on base in its 2-0 loss. It was Florida's first blemish of the season, although the Gators (7-1) still claimed the series with wins on Friday and Saturday. It was also UF's first loss to Miami (3-4) since Feb. 22, 2016.

"We didn't quite make an adjustment," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said in a release. "We had a tough time getting the leadoff man on and getting him to the stretch, but we just weren't quite able to do that."

The afternoon was rife with disappointment for the Gators, who couldn't get clutch hits and, until the fifth inning, didn't get any hits at all off UM starter Evan McKendry. The

sophomore righty with a "U"-emblazoned, green-and-orange glove struck out eight, walked two and allowed two hits.

The first hit was one you may never see again if you watch 1,000 college baseball games.

It came in the fifth inning from shortstop Jonathan India. He sliced a ball straight up, and as it started to plummet back to Earth, Miami second baseman Willy Escala and first baseman Alex Toral converged at the pitcher's mound.

McKendry darted out of the way, but Escala and Toral couldn't decide who was going to secure the catch. Toral lunged for it and missed under the bright Miami sun and cratered into the clay before the ball plopped onto the grass. When Escala picked it up, India was already on second base with a double that barely passed the pitcher's mound.

While that was an iconic moment in the game, what happened next was emblematic of Florida's struggles.

The Gators had India on second base with no outs. They had momentum following their first hit of the game. Their response?

Line out. Fly out. Swinging strikeout.

"Credit McKendry," O'Sullivan said. "He

was really good today. He threw a lot of really good, quality off-speed pitches and located them down."

That trend continued in the game's later innings against Hurricanes reliever Andrew Cabezas.

In the seventh, three Florida hitters walked with two outs. Left fielder Austin Langworthy flew out to end the threat. In the eighth, right fielder Wil Dalton reached base on an error and got on second base with two outs. India grounded out. And in the ninth, first baseman Keenan Bell opened the game's final frame with a leadoff single. The next two hitters struck out swinging, while shortstop Brady McConnell got caught looking to end the game.

"These are things you learn from," said O'Sullivan, who wished his team was more aggressive. "You can talk about them and have intersquads, but until you're actually in those situations... they're learning points."

Florida starter Tyler Dyson was perhaps the unluckiest person on the trip for the Gators. Despite allowing the fewest earned runs of any Florida starter this weekend (one) and tying for the most innings pitched (six), he was the only member of the trio to take a loss.

SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 16



Shayna Pirreca scored a game-winning goal in overtime on Sunday in the Florida lacrosse team's 17-16 victory over Loyola.

## Gators swimmers compete for final time before NAAs

Florida's men's and women's swimming and diving teams completed the final day of the Last Chance Meet in Gainesville on Sunday. It was the swimmers' final opportunity to post qualifying times for the NCAA Championships. Twenty-six male swimmers and 10 female swimmers recorded B-cut times.

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Gators' offense lethargic in regular season finale against Georgia

By Justin Ahlum

Sports Writer

With two and a half minutes left in the fourth quarter, Florida's women's basketball team emptied its bench.

Four freshmen saw playing time in the game's final moments, finishing up UF's regular season finale with a whimper.

Georgia sealed a 63-43 victory over the Gators in Athens, Georgia, on Sunday afternoon.

UF (11-18, 3-13 SEC) failed to score more than 50 points for the second consecutive game, had two quarters in which it scored fewer than 10 points and had only one player score in double-digits.

"They just outplayed us in every aspect of the game," coach Cameron Newbauer said. "We're going to turn the page, move on. They are a good team that had a

good year."

Florida shot under 28 percent from the field (15-of-54) and turned the ball over 15 times.

It also gave up 14 offensive rebounds on Sunday, which contributed to 12 second-chance points for the Bulldogs.

Guard Funda Nakkasoglu scored 10 points and shot 3-of-9 from the field. Delicia Washington, who missed Thursday's game with a left ankle injury, came back to the starting lineup as well.

Her impact was crucial in the first half, as she kept Florida in the game going into the break. Washington made her first three shots and scored eight points through two quarters.

But the sophomore seemed to struggle with her ankle in the latter part of the game. Midway through the third quarter, Washington limped off the floor and to the Gators' bench.

She did return to the game but finished 3-of-7 and failed to score a point in the final 20 minutes.

As for Georgia (24-5, 12-4 SEC), the Bulldogs took advantage of a depleted UF team. Four players scored in double figures, and eight Bulldogs knocked down a field goal on Sunday.

Mackenzie Ingram had 12 points on 6-of-9 shooting and was one rebound shy of a double-double.

"We tried to make adjustments (throughout the game)," Newbauer said, "but weren't successful at it. So we've just got to turn the page on this and move on."

Florida will now turn its attention to the SEC Tournament. It is the No. 11 seed in the bracket and will face No. 14 Ole Miss on Wednesday afternoon.

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Alan Alvarez / Alligator File Photo

Cameron Newbauer is looking to move on from Florida's 3-13 regular season SEC record. "We've just got to turn the page on this," he said.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Florida caught in middle of wide open SEC seedings race

By Andrew Huang

Sports Writer

The current state of the SEC's race for the top-four seeds in the conference tournament, which runs from March 7 to 11, is wide open.

The top-four teams receive a double bye for the opening two rounds of the bracket, creating an easier path to the championship game, as well as extra time to rest.

The league, as a whole, has improved from a year ago, when it featured five teams in the NCAA Tournament. While it's not particularly top-heavy — there are just two ranked SEC teams — it's highly competitive across the board.

The fact that there are only two games left for each team before the SEC Tournament begins, and 11 out of 14 teams can still clinch a top-four seed, illustrates this season's parity.

Only the ACC (10) has more than the SEC's eight projected tournament teams, according to ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi.

Florida, part of a four-way tie for third place in the SEC standings, plays host to one of those teams — Kentucky, which the Gators defeated 66-64 on Jan. 20 — to close out the regular season on March 3. On Tuesday, UF will take on Alabama in Tuscaloosa, another team in contention. The Crimson Tide beat the Gators 68-50 on Feb. 3.

Going by today's SEC standings, Florida's remaining schedule is the toughest of any team in position to earn a top four seed, but the Gators own six head-to-head tiebreakers, more than any of the top 11 SEC teams.

Florida has wrapped up the season series against Auburn, Mississippi State, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas A&M and LSU.

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### Teams In Contention For Top-Four Seed

**1 - \*Auburn (24-5, 12-4 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At Arkansas, South Carolina

**2 - Tennessee (21-7, 11-5 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At Mississippi State, Georgia

**T3 - Mississippi State (21-8, 9-7 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: Tennessee, at LSU

**T3 - Kentucky (20-9, 9-7 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: Ole Miss, at Florida

**T3 - Arkansas (20-9, 9-7 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: Auburn, at Missouri

**T3 - Florida (18-11, 9-7 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At Alabama, Kentucky

**T7 - Missouri (17-12, 8-8 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At Vanderbilt, Arkansas

**T7 - Alabama (17-12, 8-8 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: Florida, at Texas A&M

**T9 - Texas A&M (18-11, 7-9 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At Georgia, Alabama

**T9 - Georgia (16-12, 7-9 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: Texas A&M, at Tennessee

**T9 - LSU (16-12, 7-9 SEC)** | Remaining schedule: At South Carolina, Mississippi State

\*Clinched top-four seed

## TRACK

## UF men take third, women finish sixth in SEC Indoor Championships

By Alanis Thames

Sports Writer

Grant Holloway clapped his hands together and broke into a running-man celebratory dance following his race.

The sophomore then quickly patted his chest twice and struck a pose with his arms folded and head tilted to the side to commemorate his second consecutive SEC title in the men's 60-meter hurdles.

Florida's men's and women's track and field teams wrapped up their final day of competition on Sunday at the 2018 SEC Indoor Championships in College Station, Texas. The men's team matched its third-place finish from a year ago on Sunday with 83.5 points, while the women finished in sixth with 61 points.

Holloway won the men's 60-meter hurdles easily with a time of 7.53 seconds. He joined EJ Lovett and Ron Bramlett as the only men in history to repeat as SEC champions.

Sophomore Clayton Brown also collected a title on Sunday with his mark of 16.08 meters in the men's triple jump. Three-time SEC champion and teammate KeAndre Bates took third in the same event.

The Gators have now won seven of the last 10 SEC Indoor Championship triple jump titles.

Junior Yanis David took the lead on her last jump (14.11 meters) in a tight women's triple jump event, but she finished runner up to Georgia's Keturah Orji, who ended with a mark of 14.18 meters.

David, however, broke the UF school record and became the No. 8 triple jumper on the collegiate All-Time Top-10 List. Her performance also accounted for eight of the women's points.

In the men's 60-meter dash, freshman Hakim Sani Brown, who won his qualifying heat on Day 1, finished sixth overall on Sunday. Michael Timpson Jr. finished in eighth place in the same race. The two sprinters gathered four points for Florida's men.

Redshirt sophomore Jack Guyton took fifth place in the men's mile to add four more points

to the Gators' total.

Junior Kunle Fasasi finished sixth overall in a two-section men's 400-meter event. His performance (46.34) was good enough for three points.

Junior and six-time All-American Sharrika Barnett established the time to beat (51.81) in the first heat of a two-section women's 400-meter. However, in the second heat, Kentucky's Sydney McLaughlin set an SEC meet record at 50.52 seconds. McLaughlin's record, along with Georgia's Lynna Irby's time of 50.62 seconds, pushed Barnett to third overall.

Freshman Taylor Manson finished sixth in that same race.

Barnett's bronze finish was good for six points, and Manson's added three more.

Redshirt sophomore Elisabeth Bergh finished fourth in the women's mile and piled on five more points for UF's women.

Senior Lloydricia Cameron, who grabbed her first title in the shot put on Saturday, finished sixth in the women's weight throw on Day 2.

UF's men's distance medley relay team took fourth place in its event and finished at 9:41.01, just under one second behind Georgia's team. The team's time was good enough for five points and ranks No. 10 on the Gators' All-Time Top 10.

The women's distance medley relay team finished eighth but clocked a season-best time of 11:36.30.

In the final event of the 2018 SEC Indoor Championships, the 4x400 meter relay, the men took second place. Their time of 3:02.65 is the fifth fastest time in collegiate history and the eighth fastest ever recorded indoors.

They finished less than a second behind Texas A&M's 4x400 relay team and secured a third-place conference finish for the Gators' men.

The women's 4x400 relay team clocked a time of 3:33.57 for fifth place, putting its team at sixth overall to conclude the championship meet.

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# O'Sullivan: UF is 'going to learn from' loss



The Associated Press

Tyler Dyson's eight strikeouts and one earned run in six innings pitched weren't enough to propel Florida past Miami on Sunday.

## BASEBALL, from pg. 14

Dyson struck out eight and walked none in those six innings, with his only mishap coming in the bottom of the fifth.

After retiring the inning's first two hitters on a pair of popups, Escala roped a double down the left-field line. Senior Michael Burns poked a ball down the line again on the next at-bat to plate Escala, who stomped on home plate with both feet while Burns whipped his arm at the UM dugout.

Florida was obviously unable to respond, which O'Sullivan is hoping won't happen again this week with a home-and-home matchup against North Florida starting Tuesday in Jacksonville.

"These are lessons that we're going to learn from and move forward," O'Sullivan said.

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ebauer@alligator.org

### Florida's Offensive Struggles On Sunday

- C J Schwarz: 0-for-3, 3 Ks
- 2B Blake Reese: 0-for-3, 1 K
- CF Nick Horvath: 0-for-3, 3 Ks
- RF Wil Dalton: 0-for-3, 1 K
- DH Nelson Maldonado: 0-for-4, 1 K

## COLUMN, from pg. 14

Personally, I know how I would react to a less-than-average season from this team. Though the core of the staff has coached with each other for a long time, it has also had just one season — 12 games and a spring scrimmage — to move deck chairs around on this hypothetical Titanic. The fingerprints of this staff are hardly on the roster. But Mullen and Co. will have the entire offseason to recruit. This — as opposed to earlier this year when top prospect Trey Dean didn't know who UF's new secondary coach was during his official visit — is the ideal scenario.

Self-reflection in individual fans is a rarity, but it's even more scarce in collective fanbases. My advice would be to brace for failures and be pleasantly surprised at progress.

This is the University of Florida, however, where successful coaches are called out for not being successful enough. Yes, there are obvious faults to White's late-game coaching. Sure, Meyer's detractors griped about lagging efforts once coach Ron Zook's recruits either graduated or were drafted. Fans and reporters alike share a common interest in the sense that we would all like questions answered in those cases.

So if Mullen's offense looks like Sisyphus with a football, or if defensive coordinator Todd Grantham allows 300 yards to open the season against Charleston Southern, how will you react?

The real question is: If the 2018 Gators football team sucks, how explosive are the trash-can fires around midtown?

Morgan McMullen is the Alligator's online sports editor. Contact him at mcmullen@alligator.org.

## SOFTBALL, from pg. 14

Florida jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when left fielder Amanda Lorenz hit a double off the left field fence, allowing second baseman Hannah Adams to run home.

Sophia Reynoso then changed things up in the top of the fourth when she fielded a ball from shortstop.

Reynoso quickly scooped up the grounder, but instead of making a throw to first, she spun around and hurled it to second, retiring Iowa State baserunner Taylor Nearad.

As the game approached the end of the fifth,

the home crowd got anxious as Iowa State's Skyler Ramos rounded third base following a single to center field from Jackie Chairez.

Ramos sprinted toward home as the ball soared through the air. But as Ramos slid into the plate, Wheaton caught a laser from Alex Voss and tagged Ramos out.

"We practice this all the time, practicing all different types of angles and speeds of the runner," Wheaton said. "It was pitched perfect."

In the Gators' second game of the day against the Eagles, much of the action was saved for the bottom of the first and third innings, with UF scoring at least three runs apiece in both frames.

One of the game's more memorable mo-

ments came in the third as UF's Nicole DeWitt stepped up to the plate. With Adams on first base, DeWitt waited on a 1-2 pitch from Georgia Southern's Kaylee Ramos.

Adams snuck away from the bag, stealing second before a throw from catcher Logan Harrell caught up with her.

Rattled by the previous play, Ramos couldn't regain control on the mound and walked DeWitt.

Outfielder Amanda Lorenz was up next when a disheveled Ramos sent a 3-2 pitch to the batter's box, Lorenz sent the ball flying toward right field.

The yellow sphere disappeared behind the blue tarp-covered fence, giving Lorenz her first

home run of the season and putting the Gators up 8-0.

Overall, the Gators had a successful weekend at home, finishing the Aquafina Invitational with a 6-0 record, ending four of their games in mercy-rule wins and recording one no-hitter and one perfect game.

Florida will travel to Fullerton, California, early Tuesday morning in preparation for the Judi Garman Classic. UF begins the event on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. with a matchup against Loyola Marymount.

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**SPORTS ISSUES 2018**

RUN 5 OUT OF 14 DATES AND SAVE 15%

<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 12</b> Gymnastics vs. LSU	<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 2</b> Men's Basketball vs. Kentucky, Baseball
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 26</b> Gymnastics, Tennis	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 12</b> Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2</b> Men's Basketball vs. Alabama	<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 23</b> Baseball, Softball, Tennis
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9</b> Gymnastics, Softball vs. Michigan	<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 30</b> Baseball, Track & Field, Softball, Lacrosse
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16</b> Baseball, Lacrosse	<b>FRIDAY, APRIL 13</b> Baseball, Track & Field, Softball, Tennis
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23</b> Men's Basketball, Gymnastics, Softball	<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25</b> Softball, Baseball

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