Are you UF’s No.1 Fan?
Meet your competition
Swamp Talk

LIVING HISTORY

I was delighted to see the article in the Summer ’08 Florida alumni magazine by my old friend and teammate, Ron Coleman (’68–’73), about the integration of Gator athletics in the late ’60s.

I was particularly happy to see him clearly (and correctly) set the record straight: the first black athlete to compete intercollegiately for UF was in fact cross-country runner Johnnie Brown (’68–’69) of West Palm Beach.

The event would have been an early cross-country meet in late August or early September 1968, weeks before the first football game of the season (head track coach Jimmie Carnes still lives in Gainesville and could probably furnish the details — in fact, we discussed this very event just a few months ago).

I have seen many references over the years to football players Willie Jackson (BSJ ’73) and Leonard George (BSBR ’74) being “the first,” but those of us who were there know better.

The thing I remember most clearly is what fine athletes and personable companions both Ron and Johnnie were and how much they were liked and admired by their teammates, myself included. We certainly suspected the pressure they were under and could only guess at how much anxiety and difficulty they must have had to deal with elsewhere, but they exhibited only grace, good humor and a quiet courage to us.

As Ron indicated in his article, Jimmie Carnes deserves much credit for his calm leadership during this time of great cultural change, as well as for — more generally — his energetic and innovative tenure as head track coach from 1964 to 1976.

It was nothing short of wonderful to read Ron’s piece, to see how well he is doing and to remember once again some pretty amazing times we all lived through together.

— John Parker Jr. (BS ’69, JD ’72)
Bar Harbor, Maine

FIERY MEMORIES

Not to take issue with Gerry Katz’s (ISBR ’63) memory (“Swamp Talk,” Summer 2008), or even tout my own, for that matter, but as a student in ’60–’62 and ’70–’72, I frequented Parker’s [restaurant] on a regular basis. He offered mild, medium, hot, red hot, double red hot, Sabre jet and Super Sabre jet [sauce]. The SSL was made in very small batches (as noted, the demand was slight) and had to be stored in glass, as it was quite corrosive. He offered goat if pre-ordered — a favorite of my Mom’s — and I would take an order for the weekend on occasion.

— J. Nick Adams (BSJ ’72)
Havana

THE REST OF THE STORY

We were thrilled to see UF LAW magazine’s “Unequal Justice” story reprinted in the summer 2008 Florida.

The story highlights the efforts of UF law alumnus Charlie Douglas (BABA ’03, JD ’06) to free Tyrone Brown, a young black man sentenced to life in prison. It’s an amazing story, but what we didn’t know when we printed our article is even more amazing.

We reported our alumnus became aware of Tyrone Brown after watching ABC’s “20/20” coverage of the story, but we didn’t know true credit should be given to Brooks Egerton, an investigative reporter for The Dallas Morning News who first broke the story in April 2006, and his editor, UF graduate Maud Beelman (MAJC ’82). Egerton was planning to focus his story on Judge Dean’s lenient sentence of John Wood when Beelman suggested he could strengthen the story by drawing comparisons to the sentences of other defendants in the judge’s court.

If Egerton and Beelman hadn’t chosen that editorial direction, Tyrone Brown’s story would never have aired on “20/20” and he would still be unjustly incarcerated for the rest of his life.

— Lindy Brounley (BS ’88)
Editor, UF LAW magazine
Gainesville

DON’T TRIVIALIZ CRIME


However, less than good marks to you for characterizing the armed robbery by Tyrone Brown as a “minor offense.” Since when does an armed robbery at gun point become a minor offense, whether committed by an adult or a juvenile?

— N. Richard Schopp (JD ’72)
Port St. Lucie
FEATURES

12 Super Fans
Some people go to great lengths to prove their loyalty to UF.

18 From UF With Love
Postcards — and their messages — offer a window to old UF.

ON CAMPUS

4 A Figure of Speech
Professor Virginia Dixon-Wood helps children with palatal disorders find their voices.

5 Cream of the Crop
Students discover the Earth's bounties in "Plants that Feed the World."

6 Second Bloom
Once a showplace of camellias, Wilmot Gardens is being returned to its former glory.

7 Lost No More
A Sudanese refugee, political science student Peter Ter shares his story and his hopes.

8 The Playmaker
Amanda Butler used to take her shots as a guard at UF, but now she's calling them as a Gators head coach.

9 Hitting the Bricks
How well do you know campus?

10 Cash Crunch
Six questions about UF's budget cuts.

UF ALUMNI

22 Critical Condition
Louisiana has turned to Alan Levine to fix its health care system.

24 My Old School
UF recognizes 50 years of integration.

26 High Mileage
Homer Hooks turned in his driver's license, but he's kept a lifetime of memories.

ON THE WEB | www.UFalumnimagazines.com/Florida

Chomp On This
Submit your favorite tail-Gatoring recipes

Gators, Gators Everywhere
Tell us the strangest place you've met a Gator

Not-so-secret
See Wilmot Garden's planned renovations
Faculty Profile

A Figure of Speech

Virginia Dixon-Wood helps children with palatal disorders find their voices.

At 5 years old, the boy could say only “mama.” After dismissing autism, no local doctors could figure out what was wrong with his speech. In desperation, his mother called Virginia Dixon-Wood at UF’s Craniofacial Center.

“She was pretty much at the end of her rope,” remembers Dixon-Wood, a licensed speech pathologist and the center’s assistant clinical director.

Dixon-Wood diagnosed him with a submucous cleft palate — muscles in the roof of his mouth didn’t form correctly, so he could not create enough air pressure to form sounds. One child in every 750 births has a cleft palate of some sort, Dixon-Wood says.

“If you can’t make any pressure sounds, you’re very unintelligible,” she says. “He was a very smart little guy, so he knew that. He just stopped talking.”

Each year Dixon-Wood works with more than 500 children who are born with palatal disorders that can affect their speech. Teamed with surgeons and speech pathologists, she provides children the therapy they need to speak normally.

Surgery coupled with therapy, for instance, enabled her 5-year-old patient to speak normally within two years.

“He’s getting great grades,” Dixon-Wood says.

Working with the patients takes a variety of forms. At the center, Dixon-Wood is known for getting on the floor with children, playing with a toy or reading a book in order to diagnose disorders.

“She just has such a heart for children and wants to make their lives better,” says speech pathologist Barbara Kirby, one of Dixon-Wood’s former students.

Parents, meanwhile, learn to use words their children can pronounce. Using words with “m” and “n” sounds enables children to communicate with their parents, reducing frustration on both sides.

Dixon-Wood also stretches beyond the center to reach children and their parents. She has worked in Kiev, Ukraine, and now operates two weeklong camps in Florida that provide intensive speech therapy to small groups of children, complete with continuing therapy plans the families can take home with them. She founded the first camp in Keystone Heights, and a donation allowed her to open a second camp in Panama City this year.

“We’re getting kids from all over the state who are coming here for speech problems that haven’t been properly diagnosed,” Dixon-Wood says, adding that the camps also provide hands-on training for graduate students in her Applied Craniofacial Disorders class.

Eventually, Dixon-Wood says she’d like to expand the number of camps to train more speech pathologists and reach more children around the state and nation.

“It’s very rewarding to see kids caring about each other,” Dixon-Wood says of her campers. “These kids do make some very significant progress.”

— Elizabeth Hillaker (BSJ ’08, BA ’08)

To learn more about UF’s Craniofacial Center, or to support its services, visit www.cleft.ufl.edu.
In The Classroom

Cream of the Crop

Students discover the Earth’s bounties in Plants That Feed the World.

Most of the world cannot browse rows of glistening fruits and vegetables or choose between 20 different varieties of bread at their local supermarkets. In sub-Saharan Africa, the local diet consists mostly of a millet porridge called “toh.”

“I had never heard of it,” says Brian Amos (2HHP). “I take it a little for granted that I can go down to Publix and get everything I need, but that’s not the case for 85 percent of the world.”

Plants That Feed the World, a course offered through the Department of Agronomy, explores the world’s 25 most important food plants, combining nutrition and plant biology with an introduction to international markets and culture. The course, which satisfies a general education requirement for biology, asks three basic questions: How are the plants grown, who eats them and why are they important?

The course is especially relevant now because after 30 years of crop surplus, the world is entering a global food shortage, says professor Kenneth Quesenberry. In fact, U.S. food prices jumped 0.9 percent in May, the fastest rate in 18 years. Food riots have occurred in Haiti, Egypt and Bangladesh. Worldwide prices of wheat, rice, corn and soybeans have doubled or tripled in the past year as demand burgeons.

“World demand is getting close to exceeding our supply,” Quesenberry says. “In this class, we’re trying to be involved on the international scene.”

The class begins with the big four: wheat, corn, rice and soybeans. Then it branches out to include more exotic food crops, including Faba beans, cowpeas and cassava — a starchy root grown in Africa and South America.

The class discusses various foods’ nutritional benefits and which geographic areas produce the best crops.

Each week students cook dishes from a different food crop. Some past recipes include Moist Cocoa-Lentil Cake, Pea-lentiful Spice Bars and Banana Fritters.

“It gives them a flavor of what other cultures do,” Quesenberry says. “I had food that I’d never had before.”

— Angela Guttman (2LS).

Also when I buy produce, I look to see where it’s produced. I know where the food should come from to be the best.”

— Elizabeth Hillaker (BA ’08, BSJ ’08)

To learn more about the Agronomy Department and its offerings, visit http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu.

Professor Kenneth Quesenberry says his course is “what a liberal education should be. It enlightens you to the world in terms of the food you eat. It will make you a better world citizen.”

Museum Stroll

Touring the Body in Vein

“Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body” explores the scientific mechanisms behind the mushy, oozing, crusty, scaly and other “gross” things that occur in the human body every day. Sophisticated animatronics and imaginative hands-on activities show the good, the bad and the downright ugly about the body’s incredible biological processes. The exhibit will be on display through the Florida Museum of Natural History until Jan. 11.

www.flmnh.ufl.edu

Dazzling Design

“Promises of Paradise: Staging Mid-century Miami” highlights the groundbreaking contributions to American modernism of architects, designers and urban planners of mid-20th century Miami. The exhibit showcases architectural designs, furniture, textiles and other decorative arts from artists such as Alfred Browning Parker, Morris Lapidus, George Farkas, Frederick Rank, Kay Pancoast and Fran Williams. The exhibit, organized by Bass Museum of Art in Miami and sponsored locally by ERA Trend Realty, runs through Jan. 25 at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.

www.harn.ufl.edu

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Gator Bytes

www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/?c=juv
Browse more than 100,000 children’s books from the United States and England — including multiple editions of “Alice in Wonderland” and “Robinson Crusoe” — in the Baldwin Library of Children’s Literature’s digital collections. The site was recently honored by Collectors Weekly as one of the best on the Web.

www.ufl.edu/facts
Got a neighbor who just won’t stop bragging about his grandson at Florida State? Visit this UF facts site to gather some talking points of your own.

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/puzzle/puzzles.html
Teach your kids about sharks while playing these interactive word games from the Florida Museum of Natural History.

http://newszine.jou.ufl.edu
Learn more about national and world events on the College of Journalism and Communications’ weekly Web-based, student-run news magazine.

www.vetmed.ufl.edu/college/donors/petmemorial.html
Let friends know you care about the pets they have loved and lost through UF’s Pet Memorial Program. A small gift ($10 or more) to the College of Veterinary Medicine says you care in a way that benefits all animals. Your friend will receive a personalized sympathy card letting them know you have remembered their pet with a contribution.

http://vfd.ifas.ufl.edu
Learn about the latest agricultural advances from the comfort of home by attending a “Virtual Field Day” put on by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

http://vfd.ifas.ufl.edu/
Find out facts about your local Florida housing market by visiting the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, coordinated by UF’s Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing. The site was recently named a Top 10 Web site by Planetizen, a planning and development network.

Second Bloom

Once a national showplace of rare camellias, Wilmot Gardens is being returned to its former glory — and medical patients could reap the benefits.

Nestled at Mowry Road and Gale Lemerand Drive, Wilmot Gardens has long been UF’s “Secret Garden.” Until recently, however, its storied history was hidden behind tangles of weeds and invasive vines.

In ornamental circles in the 1940s, Royal James Wilmot was nearly synonymous with the word “camellias.” The UF horticulturist classified more than 3,000 varieties of camellias, and he was a founding member and the inaugural secretary for the American Camellia Society in 1945. The society’s home base in Gainesville during its early years was no doubt largely due to the gardens that Wilmot founded on the site of an old phosphate mine just off Archer Road.

For a time, Wilmot’s 4.6-acre gardens were home to the largest publicly held collection of camellias in the United States. Pine trees were planted to give the camellias the proper balance of shade and sunlight while azalea-lined paths wound through the underbrush. Even after Wilmot’s death in 1950 — noted in the gardens by a monument laid by Wilmot’s family in 1954 — the gardens flourished thanks to the donations of hundreds of rare varieties of camellias from enthusiasts around the country.

In the last 25 years, however, the gardens fell into weedy ruin. UF was flourishing, but Wilmot Gardens was perishing.

Ironically, Wilmot Gardens’ salvation lay in the construction of a new building. When UF earmarked $40,000 to offset the environmental impact of a planned surgery center along 34th Street, former College of Medicine dean Dr. Craig Tisher proposed that the funds go toward the rehabilitation of Wilmot Gardens. He hoped its restoration would provide a welcome haven for not only patients of Shands at UF, but also the physicians and staff treating them.

Volunteers ranging from Gainesville Camellia Society members to first-year medical students have rallied around Tisher’s cause, and, led by project coordinator Linda Luecking, Wilmot Gardens is thriving once more. At project’s end, it will be a sanctuary of sugar maple trees and dogwoods, with sunshine sneaking through the canopy of old pine trees to add a healthy glow to not only Shands patients, but also to Wilmot’s prized camellias.

Luecking says a university historical marker honoring Wilmot’s contributions is tentatively scheduled to be installed in the gardens in spring 2009 — just about the time the camellias will be in bloom.

— Jamison Webb (B.S.J. ’07)

ON THE WEB
www.UFAlumnimagazines.com/Florida

Rejuvenation:
UF’s Wilmot Gardens received a grant to turn the once-forgotten land into a vibrant place for healing. See the plans for progress, and find out how you can help.
Lost No More

A Sudanese refugee, Peter Ter shares his story in hopes that he — and others — can make a difference.

Peter Ter speaks calmly as he describes the brutal realities of growing up in refugee camps in sub-Saharan Africa. It’s when the 22-year-old talks about the fate of his family that his voice wavers with emotion.

Two of Ter’s older brothers were conscripted as “child soldiers” in the family’s homeland, Sudan. Made to believe they were being brought to the United States to receive an education, Ter’s brothers were instead handed AK-47s and told to seek revenge against pro-government northern forces rampaging through the nation’s southern regions.

Ter, deemed too young to fight, escaped such a fate. He became one of Sudan’s “lost boys” — a generation of children separated from family by the civil war that has ravaged Sudan since the early 1980s. Now living in the United States, the history and political science major at UF hopes his story can educate and enlighten others about not only the situation in Sudan, but also in other places around the world that are mostly ignored.

He remained in refugee camps for 12 years, learning to read and write English by tracing words in the dirt. Separating him from his parents and forcing him to become one of Sudan’s estimated 4 million residents displaced by war. His new home was a refugee camp, although it offered little refuge.

Ter was younger than 8 years old when his brothers were taken away to fight in the battles between the largely Islamic North Sudan and the predominantly Christian South. He remained in refugee camps for 12 years, learning to read and write English by tracing words in the dirt and surviving on one meal a day provided by the United Nations.

It was the U.N. that eventually helped Ter reach the United States to pursue his passion for education.

“If it hadn’t been for the support of the United Nations, I would be dead,” he says.

Today Ter is a regular speaker for on-campus groups, sharing his story with thousands of students as he weaves personal stories into political topics. His quick smile and wit readily endear him to others.

“I enjoy speaking with people,” Ter says. “It’s something I really want to continue to do.”

Ter hopes he can someday use his experience, education and skills as a diplomat.

“I think that is a way I can help bring about change,” he says.

— Christopher Garland (7CLAS)

Brandon Kruse

Political science major Peter Ter was once a “lost boy.” The term describes a generation of children whose families were ripped apart by violent conflict in Sudan.
Amanda Butler used to take her shots as a guard at UF, but now she's calling them as the women's basketball head coach.

Hanging prominently in Amanda Butler's office is a black-and-white photo of her grandmother and the 1931 Tennessee champion Portland High girls' basketball team.

The game of basketball, she says, is part of the soil in which the Butler family tree grows.

Butler (BSESS '95, MESS '97), UF's head women's basketball coach, is coming off an inaugural season in which she and her team executed a stunning turnaround. The Gators won more than twice as many games this season over the previous season, and in the process once again became relevant in the ultra-competitive Southeastern Conference.

"The experience has been amazing," she says.

Butler's ascension to the Gators' head coach position marks her return to Gainesville and The Gator Nation. From 1990–94, she starred as the team's point guard, and during those years the Gators achieved what was at that time their greatest success, including two trips to the NCAA Tournament and a then-record 73 wins in four years.

The region of Tennessee where she was raised, known as "Mid-State," is a hotbed of girls' basketball. In her hometown of Mt. Juliet, girls' high school basketball was the "biggest show in town." Butler's mother, Barbara, was the Mt. Juliet High head coach, where young Amanda followed her to the gym regularly, idolizing the players.

She started playing competitively in the fourth grade and was recognized as a unique talent early on. Her junior team, the Blue Jays, went undefeated three straight years.

“My staff gets tired of hearing about it,” Butler says.

A stellar prep career followed, and she ended up at UF playing for her mentor, then-head coach Carol Ross. During her playing career, Butler was already developing the makings of a coach. Thanks to her mother, she had learned the game through a coach’s eye; as a point guard she excelled at directing her teammates and acting as a floor leader.

When her playing days were over, she moved swiftly through the coaching ranks. When the UF job came open, she jumped at it.

According to Gator assistant coach Brenda Mock Fitzpatrick, who has been with Butler for three years, her success lies in her intensity and her ability to relate to players.

“She’s definitely a players’ coach, and she coaches to their strengths. With Amanda, you always feel like you can contribute.”

As she moves forward, Butler says she will continue to raise the level of passion at UF.

“In all cases, I believe in doing the most aggressive thing that makes sense,” she says. “That’s my personal philosophy as a coach.”

— By Ted Geltner (MaMc '06)
Hitting the Bricks

UF’s thousands of windows are as varied as the students, faculty and staff who depend upon them as a source of light. Can you guess where these windows are on campus? Answers are on page 25.

Florida Facts

Buckeyes Finally Beat Gators

With 51,913 students, UF is now the second largest university campus in the United States according to U.S. Department of Education statistics released this spring. The largest? The Ohio State University, which boasts an enrollment of 52,586.

Dr. Engineer

Engineering has entered a new realm: bodies. The J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering combines engineering with biology and medicine to research and create everything from epilepsy seizure warning systems to “Star Trek”-like medical monitoring and imaging techniques.

More Than Bricks and Mortar

With more than 24 million specimens housed in three buildings, the Florida Museum of Natural History is the largest natural history museum in the Southeast. Yet the museum isn’t contained in buildings alone—it also manages the 55-acre Randell Research Center, an archaeological site on Pine Island near Fort Myers.

Not in Front of the Ladies

Before James Dickey became internationally famous for his novel “Deliverance” — which inspired the 1972 movie — he served a short stint teaching at UF. Gainesville apparently wasn’t ready for him, however. A controversy arose after he read “The Father’s Body” — his poem about a little boy discovering the masculine differences between himself and his dad — to a Gainesville ladies’ society. Condemned by the university for poor judgment, Dickey left abruptly in April 1956 after less than a year on staff.

Old School

Although the Center for Latin American Studies was not founded until 1963, UF has offered classes concerning Latin America since the 1980s. Today the center offers a number of undergraduate and graduate programs, including study abroad opportunities in Brazil, Mexico and Nicaragua.

Night Owls:

During the daylight hours, campus is overflowing with life. But it doesn’t stop once the sun goes down. See photos of UF under the stars and make your best guess as to where they were taken.
Cash Crunch

Six questions about UF’s budget cuts

By John M. Dunn and Cinnamon Bair

UF’s budget shrank by $69 million in the last year, including a $47 million cut that took effect July 1. President Bernie Machen has warned that more cuts may be on the horizon. As the university tries to cope, Florida magazine tries to answer some of the more common questions about the situation and how long the money crunch could last.

How did this budget crunch happen?

Florida’s economy began to falter when the housing market cooled dramatically. Fewer housing starts and falling home prices led to a fiscal meltdown that was amplified by a worsening national outlook driven by the credit market and higher prices for gas, food and other goods. The result was a drop in consumer spending that dealt a huge blow to state coffers, which rely on sales tax, lottery and other revenues. The weakened economy is affecting all facets of Florida’s infrastructure, including its 11 public universities.

How did UF respond to the budget cuts?

The university took several steps to slash costs, including cutting all college and unit budgets by 6 percent, reducing enrollment by 1,000 students a year for the next four years, ending some degree programs, cutting research funding, restructuring several departments and eliminating about 400 positions (many of which were vacant). The university also identified new revenue opportunities, such as adding a charge for transcripts. Details about the cuts can be found on the president’s Web site at www.president.ufl.edu/budget-reduction/message.html.

Will tuition increase?

It already has. UF trustees recently approved a state-authorized 6 percent tuition hike for all 52,000 students. In addition, trustees initiated the new Differential Tuition Program that allows big universities such as UF to levy an extra 9 percent tuition increase on most freshmen and sophomores. The result was a drop in consumer spending that dealt a huge blow to state coffers, which rely on sales tax, lottery and other revenues. The weakened economy is affecting all facets of Florida’s infrastructure, including its 11 public universities.

Many of [the trustees] would like to see tuition raised further to bring UF’s fees closer to fair market value.

When is the situation expected to improve?

It could get worse before it gets better. State revenues are continuing to fall short of initial projections. Lottery estimates have already been reduced by $75 million for 2008-09 and by $56 million for 2009-10. President Machen warned faculty this summer that more cuts could therefore occur as soon as December.

Is there a lasting solution?

Board of Trustee members hope so. Many of them would like to see tuition raised further to bring UF’s fees closer to fair market value. They would also like the state to find a better funding formula that is less dependent on student enrollment. Development of such a system, in fact, is under way on the state level. The proposed new funding model would take into account the varying costs of degree programs as well as recognize the important role of research funding. Thus, the state would provide more for a student pursuing a master’s degree in chemistry – which requires expensive labs – than a less expensive junior majoring in English. Research funding would recognize the state’s return on investment.

How can I help?

With state funding faltering, continued private support to endow professorships, provide student financial aid, build needed facilities and fund research is more important than ever. To lend your support, visit www.floridatommorrow.ufl.edu.
Pepsi.
Proud to be the drink of choice for the Florida Gators.
We know, we know.
You are the ultimate Gator fan. Nobody follows the team like you do. You can name every quarterback going back to the team’s first game. You have season tickets. You’ve been to every game since graduation, home and away, even skipping your brother’s wedding to see the Gators take on LSU. Your house is decked out in orange and blue, and you do not, will not, accept defeat sitting down.

Look, we’ve heard it all before.
But let us ask you this: Would you be willing to wear an orange wedding dress down the aisle? Sell your Dodge Viper in order to turn your garage into a home theater designed to look like the Gators’ locker room? Would you buy white cars to paint them orange and blue, tear out the interior and replace it with orange-and-blue leather, then collect these vehicles and parade them to nearly every game?

It’s not just the Gators, says UF associate professor of psychology Ilan Shrira. It’s all about identity. “You attach yourself to a group,” he says, “whether it’s a race, an ethnicity or a sports team.” And sports fans tend to get absorbed in team identification. When a team is doing well, as the Gators tend to do, they’ll try to identify with them even more, says Shrira.

Super fandom, he says, is also about conformity, being a part of the pack. But even in a sea of orange and blue, there are still a few who manage to stand out.
In Pat Rosacker’s day-to-day life he works in the family business, collects cars and is a husband and dad to a 5-year-old and 8-month-old twins. But when Rosacker (BSA ’92) of Lake Worth wants to get away from it all, he heads out to his former one-car garage turned home theater that’s designed to look like the Gators’ locker room. It’s complete with game balls and signed jerseys and helmets, including one from Emmitt Smith (BSR ’96).

Rosacker is a popular guy. When he decides to stay home and watch the football game, his friends call and try to reserve a seat next to him because being at Rosacker’s house at kickoff is the next best thing to being at the game. And sometimes when it’s blazing hot outside and your drink is empty, it’s even better. When you’re sitting next to Rosacker, you’re sitting in an air-conditioned home theater, in an electronic reclining leather chair, with a wet bar just steps away, watching the game on a 110-inch big screen TV with surround sound amplifying the crowd of 90,000 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. And at the Swamp Theater, as Rosacker has dubbed his ultimate Man Room, he can keep an eye on other games, too, via three smaller screens. “You have to monitor all activities,” Rosacker says. And sometimes that means the kids. Rosacker can program security cameras in his house to broadcast images — such as the kids’ rooms when they’re napping — onto those three screens.

To Rosacker, the Gators and the university are ingrained in his daily life. Most of his family members are alumni, and, really, he just loves the team. “I get goose bumps when they come on the field,” he says. “My palms sweat.” And to remind him of that moment, the door to the theater boasts a full-scale image of the team running out of the tunnel. Plus, one of Rosacker’s greatest personal moments is entwined with the Gators — he proposed to his wife on the scoreboard at the 1996 Fiesta Bowl.

Audio Advisors built this elaborate home theater for Pat (BSA ’92) and Suzanne Rosacker (BA ’93) of Lake Worth. Aside from the four TV screens, surround sound and other electronic gadgets, accessories include reproductions of past Gator jerseys and helmets, miniature 1996 and 2006 BCS National Championship trophies and other Gator memorabilia.
Brenda Burnside (JD '94) of Silver Springs didn't always like football. Hard to believe, considering her wedding.

When guests arrived at the Burnside home March 12, 2005, they knew they were in for a Gator-themed ceremony. After all, the invitations had gone out with a bride and groom Gator on the front and even asked guests to don orange and blue for the ceremony and reception. They had to know they were in for a party when they were greeted by a costumed Gator who handed out orange-and-blue beads and asked guests to sign the guestbook. But what most were not prepared for was the bride's dedication to her alma mater — and more importantly, to the Gators.

When she appeared at the end of the aisle, she was wearing a bright orange wedding dress. Some guests gasped, she says, but even Burnside's soon-to-be mother-in-law — who was not so sure about this Gator tribute in the first place — decided it was beautiful.

And it was. She and her beloved, whom she met at the Fightin' Gator Touchdown Club, knew from the start that they wanted a Gator wedding to remember. And Burnside knew she wanted that orange dress — in fact, she bought three before ultimately settling on the beaded gown she wore in the ceremony. She found it at a local bridal shop, and ironically, it was made by a manufacturer in Tennessee. Her orange veil, complete with blue rhinestones, was handmade. The cuisine? Gator tail, swamp cabbage, orange punch and blue margaritas. Even the salt on the tables — which were adorned with orange lilies and blue flowers — was tinted UF colors.

So the question is: Why, Brenda, why? It's simple for this UF fan. "There's nothing like being in the Swamp," she says. So even though Burnside wasn't a football fan at the start of her UF career, nowadays she and her hubby catch all the Gator games. You can spot the pair by their wedding rings, which, of course, sport blue-and-orange stones.
“We were religious about it!”
Gordon “Stumpy” Harris (BSA ‘61, JD ‘65) is really into the Gators. He’s also into customized cars. So the lawyer from Orlando combines his two passions. Harris owns not only a van that he’s souped up to be all things Gator, but also a whole fleet of Gatorized vehicles that he parades to Gainesville for just about every game. The Fleet, as the train of vehicles has come to be known, has been an evolving phenomenon, says Harris.

It started with the van.

Harris bought it back in 1996 when car conversions were the thing to do. That white van became a full-fledged Gator mobile with an orange-and-blue paint job coupled with orange-and-blue leather interior. Then Harris added to the collection with a small trailer to attach to the back of the van to haul coolers, food and the tailgate tent. Then came the larger trailer to accommodate growing tailgate needs. Plus they needed room for Harris’ 1952 MG TD that he bought in law school and later Gatorized. Then there’s the pickup truck. Even Harris’ grandkids drive Gator mobiles around the tailgates: Harris makes sure to haul bicycles, motor scooters and the kids’ Gator wagon to Gator Country.

Getting the Fleet to Gainesville takes a lot of dedication. The parade starts about a week before the game when Harris drives the large trailer to Gainesville and parks it in the lot of the Hilton where he rents out the presidential suite for his family. Then on game day, he brings the truck and his son brings the van. “I want to be set up and ready to go four hours before kickoff,” Harris says of the tailgates. “We are religious about it.” That’s back when the Fleet was making an appearance at every game. These days, Harris owns a skybox at the stadium, so he only brings the whole showroom to two or three games a season.

While Harris is well known in the parking lots, he thinks his super fandom is about a lot more than football. It’s the University of Florida, period. He’s served as alumni association president and on the board of the Gator Boosters, and though he’s donated plenty of money to athletics over the years, he’s also created an endowment to benefit students, not just student athletes. The Gators? They’re just another part of a huge institution. But it’s also just plain fun to drive around in a souped-up 1952 MG, honking a horn that spouts Gator tunes.

Go Gators!

Few fans have gone to the lengths that Orlando attorney Gordon “Stumpy” Harris has to show their Gator pride. In addition to elaborate Gator décor in his home and office, Harris has a fleet of customized Gator vehicles, including a van, a truck, a 1952 MG, a 1932 Ford, three trailers, four bicycles, a scooter and a wagon. Oh, and he also donated a Gatorized RV to the UF Athletic Association.
Before text messages, cell phones, instant messaging and e-mail revolutionized communication — making “snail mail” seem archaic — the occasional postcard or letter from college was an institution. In the 102 years since the Gainesville campus opened, cardstock-printed images of UF have made their way across land and sea, many bearing the inevitable tidings of the weather, health and recent happenings and travails.

Several hundred of those postcards have found their way back to Gainesville where they’ve been preserved by the Matheson Museum. A search of the museum’s electronic archives through UF Digital Collections (www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc) reveals not only a wealth of old UF and Gainesville photos, but also a sampling of the short notes — each a miniature, handwritten time capsule — that have been sent home by students, tourists and visiting family through the years.

Join us as we peruse through other people’s mail. It’s not voyeurism — it’s history.
While these images offer a visual glimpse into the past, these excerpts from other postcards offer a view of campus life in general.

**SEPTEMBER 1917:**
Burns of Bartow Drug Co.,
Safe, Sound and Sober. Begin actual work tomorrow.
Football prospects look good. Small crowd here all new men only about 250 at most.

Col. G. Edwin Walker

**OCTOBER 1915:**
Hello Bill, old horse,
Here’s hoping you’re making out all right. Write me what you are getting this year. My stuff this session is just plain academic with a little emphasis on chemistry, and they are going to let me have my degree in three years. Well, hit her up old boy and make a reputation.

Yours, R.L. Feldman

**JUNE 1949:**
Dear Grammie,
Just now I’d swap a lot of this weather for just a little Maine weather! It certainly is hot, but the people here say it is only warm!
Went swimming at Jacksonville Beach the day before yesterday and both of us got a nice sunburn which we still feel! Guess we’re not used to a southern sun.

Love, Thelma
APRIL 1945:
Dear John,
I received your letter several days ago or longer. Glad you enjoyed your trip to California — I like Los Angeles pretty well, but I haven’t visited San Francisco. I’m working fairly hard now — exams only 4 weeks away. Boy, will I be glad to get my certificate of two years work, so I can go into Law School this June. Drop me a letter or a card.

Your Friend, Lou

AUGUST 1943:
Dear Aunt Susie and Aunt Lettie,
Sorry that I got your letter too late to be of any help regarding the hospitals. Have never been happier than I am here — it’s wonderful. The trip down wasn’t bad at all. Johnny is fine — healthier than I’ve ever seen him. Rented a bicycle today for the month — so I’ll see the countryside.

Love, Mardi

CIRCA 1920s:
Dear Sara and Mabel,
Here for my 3rd week at school. 5 more weeks! I like it real well but have plenty to do. Rather warm some days. Am taking Psychology, sociology, music, primary methods, shelling methods all require outside reading. I got 2nd grade at Davenport. I am feeling well and glad I didn’t go home on account of your backward summers. Altho I sure would love to see everybody especially the kiddies. The Univ. buildings are beautiful. 1233 students.

FEBRUARY 1953:
Pals:
We all expect to blow in March 2nd (about!). Don’t give it a care. We have a key so if someone walks in on you (in) the middle of the night — it ain’t poltergeists.

The Krastons

FEBRUARY 1958:
Dear Ralph and Alice,
According to all reports this has been the coldest winter in Florida’s history. Much of the fruit has been destroyed and the cattlemen are short of feed. Karen likes the “U” here so far. Buildings are beautiful.
Not much fishing so far, Ralph, but weather is warmer this morning, so we may try it this afternoon. Regards to you both and to Harold.

Helen and Rob
Thursday, July 21, 1916

I am feeling fine. The weather is pleasant enough. Carol is so much like Bessie and it is such a pleasure to me.

Just to hear your name called is fine. I send Papa some bulletin. Florida is the home of the sugar cane syrup. We call it Georgia's cane syrup. Miss Ellis told me that some years her brother made 1000 gallons and he could not find sale for it. Three years later he dumped it out in a field, sealed up, in the larder. Wasn't that a waste of good stuff? I should have said that when I wrote.
Critical Condition

Levees weren’t the only aged infrastructure destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Louisiana has turned to Alan Levine to fix its health care system.

By Diane Lacey Allen

Alan Levine doesn’t really care about impressing other people. At 40, he’s reached a point in life where following his heart matters most. But his new job has a different kind of reward.

Levine has been able to help make sweeping changes in Louisiana — reforming the mental health system, establishing a literacy program, requiring insurance companies to cover services for children with autism and expanding health insurance for children.

“I guess my view is I can always go earn more money if that’s what’s important to me,” says Levine (BSHSE ’90, MBA ’93, MHS ’93). “But one of the things I believe is, when you are given the opportunity to contribute to improving the human condition, you should take that opportunity.

“Don’t get me wrong, I have two kids in college and the expenses that go with that, and I certainly like having the financial resources to do the things I love to do,” he says. “But God gives each of us opportunities to use our talents and gifts in our limited time here, and I guess I don’t ever want to look back and feel I have squandered those opportunities.”

Last year, the South Florida Business Journal dubbed Levine — formerly president and chief executive officer of Broward Health, one of the largest not-for-profit public health care systems in the country — a “Heavy Hitter in Health Care.” In 2006 Modern Healthcare magazine named him one of 30 leaders from around the nation likely to have a major impact on the future of health care.

Levine is living up to the star billing.

“Alan is bright, fun, full of energy. He’s enormously creative and passionate,” says Holly Benson (JD ’96), secretary of Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration.

Benson worked with Levine when she was a member of Florida’s House of Representatives and chair of the health care council. At the time, Levine was secretary of Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration.

“When he served as secretary of AHCA in Florida, he built a really great team, which worked day and night to make the system work better for people all across the state,” Benson says.

“Alan sees opportunities where others see obstacles,” she says. “In Florida he ran a $16 billion agency and
transformed it in ways that others wouldn’t have believed possible.”

Medicaid is one area that benefited from Levine’s interest. He worked to give patients choices among competing health plans, Benson says.

Levine’s career in Florida created an unusual resume where he helped steer the state’s hospital and health care system through eight hurricanes as well as championing medical liability reform. He served as deputy chief of staff and senior health policy adviser to then-Gov. Jeb Bush, taking a pay cut and giving up stock and stock options to join Bush’s team. He has also been an administrator at South Bay Hospital in Sun City Center, Doctors’ Memorial Hospital in Perry, Tallahassee Community Hospital, Columbia Regional Medical Centers and Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center in Hudson.

Now Levine is bringing his experience from the public and private sectors to a state still reeling from Hurricane Katrina.

“The fundamental challenges in Louisiana are no different than in Florida — just more pronounced,” Levine says. “Creating a competitive work force; an aged health care infrastructure; shortages of physicians; how do we as a nation deal with the aging of our developmentally disabled population to ensure they can live with dignity and the proper support?; how do we ensure that every American has access to health care services when they need it?, etc.”

If Levine had any doubts about his impact, they were dispelled during a recent press conference to announce the expansion of health insurance for children. A mother brought her 2-year-old son to the event and “literally cried when she told us her story about how she had lost her job, and with it, insurance for her son,” Levine says.

“She was so frightened about what she’d do. She was the first person to enroll her child in the expanded program and could not have been more grateful. And she was paying a premium, so it was not like she was looking for a handout. She wanted to take responsibility for her own child, but was struggling,” he says. “I guess my point here is that this is a vivid reminder to me of how personal these issues are to families, and the fact that I have a role in shaping this policy is something incredibly special.”

But there is also a less administrative side to Levine — one that likes to read, snow ski and ride his motorcycle (always with a helmet).

Levine is a self-proclaimed avid Gator fan. Benson says people still talk about the Florida memorabilia that filled his work space.

Even though he’s moved to Louisiana, Levine still tries to get to every Gator home football game and at least one or two away games.

His pride goes beyond sports, though, sounding like a recruiter when he talks about UF.

“What you learn there, you carry with you the rest of your life,” he says.

Levine has adapted to living away from The Swamp. When he was working in Tallahassee, he made sure he could always watch his beloved Gators with a crowd. He says he bought a sports-themed Beef O’Brady’s restaurant there because “I needed a place that had a lot of televisions.”

Moving to Louisiana has put him even farther from his home turf.

“I’m behind enemy lines,” jokes Levine. But that hasn’t calmed his enthusiasm.

Levine lives on a golf course where the Louisiana State University golf team practices. And, yes, they all know where his house is thanks to the Gator flag.

“One of his stories revolves around getting caught in a speed trap in Baton Rouge and wondering whether his Gator tag prompted the traffic stop. The deputy assured Levine he wasn’t pulled because of his choice of team colors.

“But,” he told Levine, “it’s sure going to make it a lot more fun to give you this ticket.”

Levine brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role, including experience as deputy chief of staff and senior health policy adviser to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.
Leonard went on to be the first black player to score a touchdown on Alabama’s home field. He eventually received his law degree at Florida in 1980.

Hank Dunn (BA ‘70), Lansdowne, Va.

As an involved student in the Black Student Union, I was always abreast of issues concerning black folk and was compelled to make a difference on UF’s campus to make sure UF became more inviting to black students. In fact, I later became BSU president and continued to advocate for parity as it related to ethnic issues. I also had the distinction of working with the Institute of Black Culture, which was the hub of activity for black students at UF. Thus, we set out to make sure there was diversity throughout campus and welcomed the novel idea of supporting Cynthia Mays for homecoming queen.

I knew her personally, for we shared an English class together as first semester freshmen, summer 1971, and she was a conscientious student. Not only was she about business academically, but she was adorned with class, style, beauty and charm. She was the epitome of an authentic Nubian Queen.

When Cynthia decided she would run for homecoming, the black student body supported her in every manner possible. She received words of encouragement and support; black students were ever-present at the preliminaries to cheer her onto victory.

Tradition dictated that the reigning queen participate in the subsequent festivities by riding in the parade and making an appearance in The Swamp. However, Cynthia Mays was being denied this opportunity for she had married her college beau. What a stir this caused among black students on campus. We organized and staged a protest in the Reitz Union, demanding that she reign over homecoming even though she was married. Because of the togetherness we had as black students, our voices were heard and Cynthia was able to do the honors at homecoming. The powers that be acquiesced by listening to our plea, for this could have been the commencement of civil unrest on campus.

Dr. Samuel Lamar Wright Sr. (BA ’74), Tampa

I was very happy to see the invitation from this publication to submit thoughts and memories honoring the 50th anniversary of UF’s integration. I had not realized it started in 1958...When I entered in 1961, I’d heard it was the first year because there were a handful of African-American (a term that had not yet been introduced) undergraduate students.

These students were not permitted to sit in school cafeterias and could not shop or eat in any of the business establishments in the white part of town, which included the area right across the street from the university and the popular College Inn. The UF administration stated the cafeterias were run by private contractors and they could not do anything about that. The College Inn, the downtown movie theater and other restaurants and shops claimed the right of private property to make their own decisions about who could enter. Some claimed sympathy for the cause of equal rights but argued it would hurt their business if they allowed non-whites to enter.
Arguments about these things, the nature of private property rights, civil rights, states’ rights, individual rights, etc., echoed not just in the halls of the law school and political science departments, but throughout the campus, with frequent letters to the editor of The Alligator.

Occasionally, I would see one of the “colored” students wonder how they felt in the sea of white. But I didn’t have the courage at the time to reach out. Sometimes I would pass near the College Inn and see the small group of white and black students walking with signs of protest on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. I fantasized joining them, but held back. I decided I would at least not eat there until they integrated.

In my first two years at UF I was part of a fraternity. From there, the consensus on the protesters was that they were geeks. This, among other things, led me to leave the fraternity system and write a series of articles published in The Alligator condemning what I found to be the conformist and closed-mindedness of the fraternity/sorority world at the time. Finding a more independent vantage point, I also found the courage to cross what was for me an immense chasm of demons and fears and go to a meeting of the Student Group for Equal Rights. I joined the civil rights movement and then the evolving anti-war and student rights movements.

In the end a small group of faculty, students and members of the Gainesville community worked together for years to challenge the mindset — that we can barely imagine now — that was held by university administrators, faculty, students, businesspeople and ordinary citizens of Gainesville.

What I find most hopeful in all this, is that it can happen. Minds can change and people can take actions that help others to wake up. It’s helpful to me to remember this when I look at how far we still have to go. I’m proud of finally finding the courage to cross that line into taking action, and I think it was the most important event of my whole experience at UF.

Alan Levin (BS ’67), Nyack, N.Y.

1959

As a sophomore medical student at the College of Medicine, I welcomed the assignment of Esther Brown as my “little sister” in September 1959. During the course of that semester, my roommate left and I invited Esther to room with me in Student Housing adjacent to the Medical School. She had a 45-minute walk to school every morning, and the same at night.

Within a few days after she moved in, we were both evicted for “damaging property,” which was untrue. I went to Dean Harrell in panic since I did not have funds to live anywhere else, being a foreign student. He was very frustrated with me and the whole situation. He explained that as a Hungarian I did not understand the racial politics of the American South and did not realize that integrating a school was not the same as integrating living quarters on university property. There was nothing he could do to undo or remedy the situation. I guess I was naive and colorblind.

Esther dropped out of school at the end of the year after being under tremendous pressures. I always wondered what happened to her.

Agnes Vessey Whitley (MD ’62), Dallas

1961

In 1961 I was the sports editor of The Florida Alligator, then on campus. I was also an assistant to Norm Carlson in the sports publicity department of the athletic department and a student in the journalism college.

As the Florida Relays approached, I wrote a series of columns in The Alligator. I first suggested that, with Bobby Hayes — then the fastest man in the world (100 yd./meter dash) — running for the Florida A&M track team, it would be a good time to invite the Rattlers to the Florida Relays. The administration did not respond.

I subsequently suggested, not subtly, that in 1961 it was appropriate that UF integrate its athletic programs, and that those officials who refused to do so, from the governor on down, should step down.

Needless to say my remarks raised some controversy at the athletic department, which fired me from student job. Later, while in law school, I learned about conflicts of interest and realized that I should have resigned from the sports publicity department before writing the columns.

Later in the spring, the Mississippi State Bulldogs won the SEC basketball championship but were barred from competing in the NCAA Tournament by the Mississippi Legislature, as they would have played Loyola of Chicago, an all-black team, in the first round. My column replied, reached Starkville and was reprinted in the Mississippi State Maroon.


I congratulate the University of Florida for the last 50 years.

Michael Gora (BS ’63, JD ’65), Boca Raton

1970

The year was 1970, and I was receiving my aerospace engineering degree in December. During my last year at UF, I would make frequent trips to Miami to visit family and my girl, Cristina (now my wife of 37 years).

God knows my budget was limited, but I had a reliable ’62 Dodge to make the trips home. Posting ads for riders in the Student Union bulletin board, charging $5 each way, financed my trips.

One day I received a call from a girl who needed a ride. After discussing the arrangements, she said there was one problem. She was black.

The fact that she would bring this up — not that she was black — caught me by surprise. After a brief pause, I told her she was embarrassing me by even bringing this into the conversation. She then showed concern about other riders that would be traveling with us, whether they might object. I told her I would pick her up first, and I reassured her that if any rider that we pick up had a problem, they would not ride.

The trip was completely uneventful in both directions. I met her parents, who thanked me for looking after their daughter.

After all these years, I’ve forgotten her name, but never forgot the experience.

Néstor Moya (BS/AAK ’70), Miami
High Mileage

Homer Hooks turned in his driver’s license. But he’s kept a lifetime of memories.

By Homer Hooks (BA ’43)

I gave up my driver’s license. It was voluntary. I considered myself a good driver — no accidents or citations of any kind. But I just passed my 87th birthday, and I realized my reaction time was about a half a beat slower than it used to be. And my vision is far from perfect.

My ophthalmologist diagnosed me in the early stages of macular degeneration, and I couldn’t seem to get glasses strong enough to read the paper, use my computer, watch TV and drive without constant lens changes. I stopped driving at night months ago.

Turning in the license was like the painful end of an essential part of my lifestyle. A trivial comparison would be suddenly to stop wearing shoes.

I started driving 70 years ago as the weekend delivery boy at our town’s sole grocery store. It was the custom then for people to come to the store on Saturdays, put their orders together and leave. My job — after the store closed that night — was to deliver to their homes in the store’s Ford pickup.

This was in Clermont, just west of Orlando. These were pre-Disney, Depression times. Some of my deliveries were on unpaved and unlighted sand roads. Many were to “the quarters” where black folks lived. Very frequently, with quiet spirituals in the background, I was offered a cold drink and a piece of cake, and I would stop and talk to the family in a smoky dark room lit only by a candle or lantern. And sometimes there was a party going on and I was offered a bourbon and Coke, amid much good-natured loud talk about “give the white boy somethin’.” I politely replied that I had to drive the truck to several more deliveries and they, more than most people, knew what the police would do to a drinking driver on Saturday night. Sometimes my truck would get stuck in the sand, and two or three black men would help me dig it out. Nearby white folks (if there were any) seemed to be too busy doing their own thing.

And then there was the fascinating bit part I played as a driver in Army Intelligence in World War II. I was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Infantry, 102nd Division, 406th Regimental Combat Team, poised on the west bank of the Elbe River, ready to dash to Berlin — about 50 miles away — and capture it in the name of the Allies and work out a deal later with the Russians for the Occupation.

We got an urgent summons from Supreme Headquarters to come immediately to pick up new instructions. So the Regimental Combat Team commander and I jumped in our jeep and drove to HQ.

The message was very simple: By agreement at the highest level (Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin?), our attack force was ordered to hold up on the west bank of the Elbe and allow the Russians to enter Berlin first — the Americans and British and other Allied troops would come in later.

“I often speculate on what course postwar history might have taken if our jeep had broken down.”

I often speculate on what course postwar history might have taken if our jeep had broken down, the “hold fast” message was never delivered, and we had captured and occupied Berlin before the Russians.

Negro spirituals by lantern-light, the course of history riding on four jeep tires — these add up to unforgettable driving memories. I will miss them all.

Homer Hooks, 87, stopped driving as a safety measure. He lives in Lakeland with his wife, Lois.

Homer Hooks is the retired chairman of The Hooks Group, a communications consulting firm in Lakeland.

Hooks built up a variety of driving memories ranging from grocery store delivery boy to World War II driver.
Florida TOMORROW is . . .

... surpassing expectations. Now at the midway point, UF's capital campaign is on target to succeed.

This year has proved to be unexpected for the University of Florida in several ways. Despite the state Legislature cutting $69 million from UF’s annual budget, the university’s Florida Tomorrow capital campaign has received a record $250 million in gifts and commitments from alumni and friends. As the campaign reaches its midpoint, UF leaders celebrate some recent developments:

- UF broke ground on an 80,000-square-foot facility for the Emerging Pathogens Institute, which plans to help Florida combat diseases, insects and other imported threats to residents, animals and agriculture.

- The 192-bed Shands at the University of Florida Cancer Hospital is well on its way toward completion in 2009. The much-anticipated facility will complement a major university initiative to continue the fight against cancer.

- More than 1,100 students who are the first in their economically disadvantaged families to attend college are able to afford books and living expenses at UF thanks to the Florida Opportunity Scholars program. The gift-driven program took $5.7 million this year to fund and has yielded a 95 percent retention rate among its participants.

- The Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art plans to add a 22,000-square-foot addition to house its Asian collections thanks to a $10 million donation from David and Mary Ann Cofrin. The two-story addition, which will feature an Asian garden on its west side, will include art galleries, a mezzanine suite, storage and conservation space.

- UF opened the Bob Graham Center for Public Service in Pugh Hall, a building made possible through a $5 million commitment from Jim and Alexis Pugh. The center will prepare students to be future leaders through multidisciplinary training to help them with problem solving and decision making in both the private and public sectors.

- Construction was finished on the James W. “Bill” Heavener Football Complex at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Located on the facility’s southwest side, the three-story, 6,815-square-foot addition serves as a new front door for the football program.

These are just a few examples of the commitment and generosity that help catapult UF to the upper echelon of public higher education institutions. They prove that Florida Tomorrow will indeed create a place, a time and a belief where anything is possible.

How will you change tomorrow?

Learn more about UF’s needs and the goals set by each college and unit by visiting www.FloridaTomorrow.ufl.edu.

“Florida TOMORROW is a place where we build high performance, energy-efficient, green buildings.”
— Jennifer Grinnan, student in the College of Design, Construction and Planning

“Florida TOMORROW is the day when the research done by Warrington College Ph.D.s changes the face of the business community.”
— Bart Weitz, Warrington College of Business Administration professor

“Florida TOMORROW is right here in front of us. This community of faculty and students comes together to create an environment that launches the next generation of movers, of explorers and of leaders.”
— Kelly Drummond Cawthon, Department of Theatre and Dance professor
After 18 months of construction, the James W. “Bill” Heavener Football Complex at the southwest corner of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium opened in mid-July. Built solely with private donations, the complex includes improvements and expansions needed by the football program. Names of those who contributed to the project are displayed above the main entrance.

Stay Connected

**NOVEMBER**
- 8 November: Gator Nation Tailgate (Gators vs. Vanderbilt) in Nashville, Tenn.
- 12 November: Gator Shadow Day in Gainesville
- 20-22 November: Grand Guard Reunion in Gainesville

**DECEMBER**
- 10 December: Grad Bash at Emerson Alumni Hall in Gainesville
- 12 December: Fall Ring Ceremony in Gainesville

**JANUARY**
- 13 January: Cicerones Spring Forum in Gainesville
- 16-17 January: Gator Club Leaders Weekend in Gainesville

**FEBRUARY**
- 19-21 February: Back to College Weekend in Gainesville

**MARCH**

**APRIL**
- 4 April: Legends Ball in Gainesville recognizing UF’s first black graduates
- 18 April: Orange and Blue football scrimmage
- 30 April: UF Alumni Association Barbecue Outstanding Young Alumni Breakfast

To learn more about these and other UF Alumni Association events, visit www.ufalumni.ufl.edu, call 888-352-5866, 352-392-1905 or e-mail ufalum@ufufl.edu.