

UF Voices

Guzick defines integration vision

Building blocks.

They represent new beginnings, and strong, long-lasting foundations — especially relevant as we establish new homes for important components of UF and Shands HealthCare. Soon we will open three major buildings: the Shands Cancer Hospital at UF, the Biomedical Sciences Building and the Emerging Pathogens Institute. More than just bricks and mortar, the facilities represent our commitment to offering the best medical treatments, to improving scientific and scholarly research collaboration and to ensuring excellence in education across the health sciences.

They open their doors at a time when we are implementing our vision of an integrated academic health center, bringing together the Health Science Center and Shands such that the whole is greater than its parts. In doing so, we'll better position ourselves to define our niche in the marketplace, maintain our national leadership status in the realms of research and education and continue to excel in delivering topnotch patient care. This strategic synergy will propel us forward.

I'm excited about what we will accomplish. The building blocks are in place. Let's move ahead together.

*David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.
UF Senior Vice President for Health Affairs
President, UF&Shands Health System*



David Guzick

The evolution of Albert the Alligator

Behind some of the most recognizable professional mascots' plush suits and painted mesh, there lies a Gator.

You likely would never guess that under his big yellow antlers and giant-size Rochester Americans hockey jersey, The Moose actually bleeds orange and blue. Or you may not think the man behind Sir Purr of the Carolina Panthers got his start as an intern at the University of Florida.

One former University Athletic Association intern and three former Albert mascots are now professional mascot coordinators. In addition to the Amerks and Panthers, Gators are



Photo courtesy of the Rochester Americans

Tony Cajiga, The Moose mascot for the Rochester Americans, previously served as UF mascot Albert.

part of the Seattle Seahawks and Miami Dolphins.

Tony Cajiga served as Albert from 2001 to 2004. He is now a mascot for the Rochester Amerks, in addition to his other job as an engineer in New York. He said he never imagined he would be a professional mascot. Even trying out for Albert was someone else's idea.

"Somebody in my dorm saw an ad in the student newspaper for Gator mascot tryouts and told me I should give it a shot," he said.

As Albert, Cajiga participated in numerous events, such as the Outback Bowl, dedication of the Albert and Alberta statues at Emerson Alumni Hall and the filming of a CBS Sports commercial. The most exciting part of being Albert was performing in front of all the football fans, Cajiga said.

"I'll never forget the feeling the first time I stood at the 50-yard-line and heard, 'Heeeeeere come the Gators!' over the PA system," he said.

In comparison to being Albert, Cajiga said the biggest difference is the size of the crowd. The hockey arena holds about 12,000 fans — considerably less than the 90,000-plus capacity of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

He may be The Moose, but Cajiga definitely has not lost that Gator spirit.

Some of the Rochester fans know he is a Gator and they do the Gator chomp. One family of season-ticket holders once got him a special present.

"I opened it up and it was a Florida Gators BCS Championship T-shirt," he said.

By Allison Simpson

[Read more of this story at www.insideuf.ufl.edu](http://www.insideuf.ufl.edu)

UF Calendar

Sept. 29-30

UF Career Resource Center presents Career Showcase, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., O'Connell Center.

Sept. 30

History of Science Society presents **"Following the Fossil Trail: Roy Chapman Andrews' Life with Dinosaurs,"** 3 to 4 p.m., Pugh Hall, 210.

Oct. 9

School of Music presents UF Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., University Auditorium.

Recurring Events

Florida Museum Exhibit: "Butterflies and Moths in Contemporary Zuni Art," on display through Jan. 3, 2010. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

University Galleries Art Exhibit: "Alagarto: UF Printmakers," on display through Oct. 23, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Focus Gallery.

This is a sampling of events from the electronic UF calendar.

For more event details, or to submit an event to the calendar, click "UF Calendar" at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.



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UFCC seeks online pledges

The Gator Nation has a long history of caring and compassion. Giving back to our community is as much a University of Florida tradition as graduating future leaders and winning national championships.

"This year more than any other, our community needs the Gator Nation's help," said Levin College of Law Dean Robert Jerry. Jerry is chairman of the UF Community Campaign (UFCC).

Last year, faculty and staff contributed more than \$1 million to the UFCC. Funds assist in healing illnesses, helping families in financial crisis, feeding the homeless, giving babies a healthy start, saving lives and more.

Donations are accepted through payroll deduction, cash, check, debit or credit card. Visit www.ufcc.ufl.edu for more information and to pledge online until Oct. 23.

