Officials analyze meaning of rise in student grades

By STEPHANIE GARRY
Alligator Staff Writer
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A few semesters ago, a nursing student went into UF associate professor Joanne Richard’s office to argue a grade. Though she already had an A in the class, she came to complain about a deduction on her research paper.

“She wanted that point on that paper just for the principle of it,” Richard said. “I think students today are much more likely to come in and argue for a point or two.”

Richard’s experience illustrates one explanation administrators have for grade inflation, a nationwide trend in which students receive unearned high marks and the reason why Princeton University capped A’s at 15 percent.

But the qualifications of incoming freshmen have risen as well, calling into question whether UF’s rising grades are real or artificial. Since 1990, average SAT scores of incoming freshmen have risen 12.3 percent, which only slightly trails the increase in average GPA.

“I don’t think it’s a problem at all,” Interim Chancellor Kent Fuchs said at an October meeting. “I don’t think it’s a problem at all.”

But Moritz, of the Progress Party, argued candidates could not claim responsibility for everything accomplished by Student Government.

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 11

Student Body presidential candidates Dennis Ngin (Impact Party), Joe Goldberg (Gator Party) and MacKenzie Moritz (Progress Party) debate the role of Student Government at UF on Tuesday night.

SG contenders square off

By NEIL HUGHES
Alligator Writer
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Student Body presidential hopefuls made a number of ambitious promises in their first official debate at Jennings Hall on Tuesday night.

Joe Goldberg, MacKenzie Moritz and Dennis Ngin answered questions about a range of issues including safety, parking, online voting and a dry campus.

Ngin, Impact Party candidate and current Student Body treasurer, defended his tenure in office, saying some may argue candidates could not claim responsibility for everything accomplished by Student Government.

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 11

 UF’s mission goes global

By EMILY YEHLE
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SANIBEL — An $85,000 project to condense all of UF’s strengths into one marketable, succinct message is one step closer to its goal.

UF branding consultants Howard Pickett and Petie Hanley, of the Lido Brand Strategy Group, announced UF’s new mission and vision statements Tuesday to the Board of Trustees, the university’s highest governing body.

Unlike the current mission statement, Pickett and Hanley’s creations include reaching the global community in UF’s goals.

UF needs to be perceived in greater terms than just as a great Florida school, Pickett said.

“It’s great to be proud of the fact that UF is the best in Florida, but that is really not going to get us where we want to be,” he said, referring to UF officials’ goal of becoming one of the Top 10 public research universities in the nation.

While UF’s current mission statement, or “reason for being,” is close to 500 words long, the new one is summed up in a sentence: “Providing an unparalleled experience where the very best create and share knowledge to serve the people of Florida and the world,” according to trustees’ documents.

The new vision statement sets UF’s aspirations to become an example of how a research university can serve the world.

The statements were produced after Pickett and Hanley were hired by Jane Adams, vice president for university relations, to create a logo and slogan.

SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 11

An analysis of Student Senate candidates revealed The Gator Party boasts the most election support from UF’s Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils.

See story, pg. 4.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lino Stanchich, a certified macrobiotic educator and best-selling author, will be speaking in Gainesville tonight. Stanchich will be speaking at 7 p.m. at 3005 Newberry Road, Suite D. Admission is $8.

This is the last week to register to be eligible to vote in the Gainesville City Commission election March 29. Forms can be picked up in both UF and SPPC administration buildings, local libraries, and the downtown Supervisor of Elections Office. The deadline to turn in or postmark paperwork is Monday.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is bringing to Gainesville a national program called Abused Women's Active Response Emergency at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The program was launched nationally 15 years ago and is credited with saving the lives of more than 35 battered individuals, the release states.

A survivor of domestic violence will be available to speak to attendees. Other speakers will include Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich, Peaceful Paths Director Theresa Harrison and Joe Colton, group general manager of North Florida ADT Security Services.

ELEANOR FRANZ

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news and editorial. If you find an error, please call our newsroom (352) 376-4458 or send an e-mail to editor@alligator.org.

ELEANOR FRANZ

Dear Graduating Senior,

Congratulations! It's hard to believe that graduation will be upon us very soon. For the last few years, the University of Florida has been a home to us all. But before we leave the swamp to go our separate ways, we have an opportunity to leave our legacy here at UF.

By participating in the Senior Class Gift, we can leave our mark for future generations. As many Gators have done before us, we, as members of the Senior Class of 2005, can give a gift to UF that will go toward providing future Gators with the same opportunities that we enjoyed. Your gift will help support leadership opportunities for students, outstanding student programs such as the Career Resource Center, enhanced campus facilities, and help to create a better quality of student life at the University of Florida.

And if that doesn't convince you...your support will help us beat the University of Tennessee Volunteers! This year, the Senior Class Gift Committee has set up a friendly competition with UT. The rules are simple...the school with the greatest number of students contributing to the 2005 Senior Class Gift wins!

In the coming days, a fellow student will be calling to give you more information and a chance to participate in the Senior Class Gift. Our class will be setting the standard for future graduates to follow. Please join me in participating in our Senior Class Gift. Whatever the size of your gift, your support will leave a mark as a special reminder of the Class of 2005, and we can carry Florida to a victory over Tennessee!

Congratulations to us all on this accomplishment and GO GATORS!

Jamal A. Sowell
2004-05 Student Body President

For more information on the Senior Class Gift, contact the UF Foundation, Inc. at: 352.795.4444 or email FloridaFund@ufl.edu
Spring 2005 SG Elections

The Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot is
Friday, February 25, 2005
Please Call Sandy at (352)392-1665 x330
by 5:00 p.m.

Vote During SG Elections on March 15 or 16, 2005
If a run-off is necessary March 22 or 23, 2005
SG NEWS ANALYSIS

Gator boasts bevy of Greeks
Twenty of 48 hail from IFC and PC

By BRIDGET CAREY
Alligator Writer
bridget@alligator.org

An analysis of Student Senate candidates has revealed a pattern of candidate preferences, showing a strong inclination towards Greek membership. According to a survey of candidates, twenty out of forty-eight have filled at least 20 of those positions with Greek members.

Impact has been significant, not only in the Senate but also in the executive positions, as the Progress Party has at least two members from the Multicultural Greek and National Panhellenic Councils. Gator also interviewed the most candidates, with nearly 250 students asking to be involved with their party.

But Student Body presidential candidate Joe Goldsberg said that the large number of Greek candidates was irrelevant to the party's ability to represent 48,000 UF students.

“I think that our slate is extremely diverse,” Goldsberg said, adding that not only does the slate include representatives from at least 17 out of 39 IFC and Panhellenic chapters, but also from the ranks of other student leaders. And he added that it’s common for Greeks who, including the Multicultural Greek and National Panhellenic councils, make up 14 percent of UF students — to be highly interested in SG involvement.

When asked if he promised to give Greek representatives spots on the senatorial ticket in exchange for voter support, Goldsberg said, “Every single person was asked at their qualifications, and from the same community, and we took the most qualified candidates.”

Impact’s ticket includes representatives from four IFC and Panhellenic chapters — four houses Gator has not represented in its slate.

Impact has a large number of Senate candidates that have been involved with student organizations, such as Hispanic Student Union officers, the president of Gator Christian Life, a Multicultural Cabinet director, a Community Political Affairs Cabinet director and members of the Freshmen Leadership Council, among others.

“I wasn’t simply that these people had a title. It’s that these people have done their job as student leaders.”

Aside from Greek leadership, Gator has Senate hopefuls carrying lofty titles in individual college councils as well as Florida Blue Key, the Black Student Union, Volunteers for International Student Affairs (VISA) and the Board of College Councils.

“It wasn’t simply that these people had a title,” Impact presidential candidate Dennis Ngign said of his slate. “It’s that these people have done their job as student leaders.”

The Progress and Voice parties did not run a full slate of Senate candidates, but there were discernible trends in their listings.

Four of Voice’s 18 Senate candidates have College of Engineering ties, and its candidate for Student Body treasurer, Justin Lauer, serves as an engineering senator.

At least five out of the 31 Progress candidates for Senate have ties to the Inter-Residence Hall Association. But Progress presidential candidate MacKenzie Moritz said he wasn’t giving preference to on-campus housing students, but many students in residence halls were aware of his party because he and vice presidential candidate Adam Roberts are resident assistants.

Diversity is important on a ticket, Moritz said, but sometimes a particular group just tends to slate with a particular party because the leaders come from the same community.

Alligator Writer Neil Hughes contributed reporting for this article. For further SG slate analysis, look in Thursday’s Alligator.

Caught in the Light

A young woman walks through a reflection of the morning sun bouncing off of the side of the Student Recreation and Fitness Center.

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Student senators expand SG budget

MUSEUM NIGHTS IS NOW AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY.

By STEPHEN MAGRUDER
Alligator Writer
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Museum Nights was given the same status on campus as Accent and Student Government Productions. Tuesday night when Student Senate approved it as an executive agency.

The program, which opens within the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Harry Museum on Thursday nights from 6 to 10, now will have a chairperson under the SG executive branch and a budget to organize its events.

“It’s very important to my constituents,” said Fine Arts Sen. John Thrall. “There needs to be some kind of greater structure than a committee.”

With a budget, Boyles said, Museum Nights will be able to provide better programs and events to students.

The Reitz Union, the Division of Recreational Sports and SG administration are the three main recipients from SG’s Activity & Service Fee payments, Sen. MacKenzie Moritz said.

UF students attempting to raise $250 annually to fund SG.

UF students attempting to raise $250 annually to fund SG.

SG Government

Students government agencies and student organizations are funded through SG’s administration.

Next year’s budgets for SG-funded organizations initially, were approved as well, after being presented for the first time last week.

Student organizations are set to receive approximately $581,000, and funded academics, which include UF’s college councils, can expect nearly $678,000.

Commission hopefuls convene

By IVETTE MENDEZ
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After briefly stating their campaign platforms, Gainesville City Commission candidates responded to the issues Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church.

Eight of the nine candidates for City Commission attended, with campaign manager Janet Woods stepping in for Jack Donovan, citing a scheduling conflict.

“For the past three years, I think the City Commission as a whole has readressed priorities,” District 2 incumbent Ed Braddy said, referring to his achievements this term.

However, opponent Grant Thrall, a UF professor, said he did not feel Braddy’s efforts sufficient.

“The reason I decided to run was protection of my neighborhood,” Thrall said.

In his introduction, Thrall voiced his disagreement over Braddy’s vote on a number of issues, including placing an asphalt plant in District 2.

The first issue raised was the candidates’ positions on plans to reconstruct and repopulate abandoned neighborhoods around Gainesville, a process called infill.

“Infill happens when we have a vibrant center,” said Rick Bryant, At-Large incumbent. “We need to take these structures down and put money in.”

All the candidates agreed infill is an ongoing process that can improve neighborhood quality.

“If you want to deal with homelessness and infill, make downtown and the downtown plaza a viable place,” said At-Large candidate Gabriel Kaimovitz.

The downtown area’s traffic issues due to its large number of businesses was also an issue, with residents questioning whether the candidates favored or opposed the reduction of Main Street into a two-lane road.

Elections 2005

“People will start short-cutting,” said Dyonne McGraw, At-Large candidate, citing a danger to area communities. A collaborative effort between the city and public is necessary, she added.

Wide roads aren’t the complete solution to better traffic flow,” said Mike Bele, a UF student and District 3 candidate.

Belle supports finding other ways of easing traffic woes while promoting infrastructure that will attract more consumers.

A resident brought up Gainesville’s alleged unfriendliness to the homeless.

“I think that’s hogwash,” said Tony Domenech, District 3 seatholder. “The only thing the city does differently is its panhandling ordinance, he added.

The forum concluded with a meet-and-greet between the attendees and candidates.
Provost search restarts
Search firm talks about new plans

By STEPHANIE GARRY
Alligator Staff Writer
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A search firm discussed with UF officials Tuesday what went wrong in the first attempt to find the university's next provost and how a new search will reach a different outcome.

Jan Greenwood, president of the search firm that brought UF President Bernie Machen to Gainesville, told the committee why her firm, which focuses on higher education, will be more successful than the last in bringing diversity of ethnicity and discipline to the provost candidate pool.

The firm, Greenwood & Associates, plans to present about 10 candidates to the committee on May 9 and aims for a provost appointment on June 1.

"That's about as fast as you can move it," Greenwood said. But she also warned some of the most desirable candidates might not make public their interest until the very end of the search.

"There's some nuances that you just have to get used to in Florida searches," Greenwood said. "We have to go back to the market in a new way."

Candidates from institutions that are members of the Association of American Universities, a group of 62 leading research universities that includes UF, tend not to announce their candidacy until late in the game for fear of retribution from their home institutions, she said.

Florida is one of the few states where public records and open meeting laws require most material that comes before the committee to be public, including candidates' applications. She emphasized that the open process in Florida is probably unfamiliar to many potential candidates.

Doug Barrett, chairman of the committee, said search firms can do more than the universities alone.

"A search firm can explore potential candidates' interest in an unofficial capacity," Barrett said, adding that search firms also speed up the process. "It's their full-time job."

Meanwhile, the bills for the search are piling up. UF already has paid more than $40,000 to Baker Parker, the search firm that brought an original pool of candidates to the committee. Ed Poppell, vice president for finance and administration, still is negotiating whether it will pay the last installment of $24,000 to Baker Parker.

Despite having to hire a second firm, the university is not likely to seek contracts in which it would not have to pay for a failed search.

"There's a significant amount of work that goes into a search that's expended by the firm," Poppell said. "It's a lot of effort, a lot of people hours that would go into preparation and would be fair to compensate them for."

After narrowing down the original provost choices to four recommendations, the pool slimmed even further after one candidate dropped out and Machen eliminated a second. With only two viable candidates, the president hired the second firm to expand the pool — especially to bring in women, ethnic diversity and those with humanities and social science backgrounds.

UF now has an agreement with Greenwood & Associates for $75,000 in three installments.

Additionally, UF will pick up the check for long distance phone calls, travel and other costs the firms expect in the course of the search.

However, Greenwood told the committee she believes using a search firm is more cost efficient than conducting the search in-house.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Alleged thief arrested

A Gainesville man suspected in a string of thefts from the UF Welcome Center and Bookstore was arrested Monday after allegedly stealing more than $400 of merchandise, authorities said.

Jeremy J. Easton, 23, began the shoplifting spree last week, University Police spokesman Joe Sharkey said.

A total of three incidents are under investigation: two last week and another Monday, when he was taken into custody.

Sharkey said Easton mainly stole expensive textbooks, in one instance placing them in an also stolen backpack. Additionally, reports state Easton took a pair of earphones.

Sharkey said he doesn't remember exactly what he was wearing but that he does clearly remember Easton's black-and-white Converse shoes.

"Every time, he had the same shoes on," Sharkey said.

Easton seemed to have acted alone, and UPD is continuing to look into the possibility of another party involved, Sharkey said.

Easton was arrested Monday at 4:45 p.m. and taken to UPD for questioning before being transported to the Alachua County Jail. He is charged with two counts of misdemeanor retail theft and one count of felony retail theft.

According to a report, additional changes are pending regarding potential involvement in other campus crimes.

ALLEGED ROCK THROWER ARRESTED: A Gainesville man, enraged after being told to leave Faces Lounge, is charged with attacking two other patrons with rocks outside the establishment Tuesday morning.

Laithere Raynard Johnson, 20, was arrested for simple battery, disorderly intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia and a controlled substance, according to reports.

"Sadly, when you see this," Gainesville Police spokesman Keith Kameg said. "Most of the time, they are on some sort of toxicant."

Johnson had to be removed bodily, but he continued to attempt re-entering before becoming so angry he began throwing "landscaping rocks" at patrons standing near the doorway, according to the report.

Patrick Joseph Gilmore and Mariko Walton Fujimura suffered minor injuries.

Authorities said Johnson was making a scene in the middle of the street, apparently intoxicated.

He was placed in the back of a patrol vehicle where he became more enraged and began kicking the car doors so hard officers were forced to restrain him with "rip hobbles," which restricted his ankles, the report states.

Authorities said after Johnson was taken to the Alachua County jail, a search of the patrol vehicle revealed a bag containing the backseat cushions containing a substance that tested positive for crack cocaine.

Kameg said in situations like this, it is best to remove the problem from the area.

"(He) probably would have gotten away with his drug issues had he not been so flagrant about his behavior," Kameg said. "He brought law enforcement into his world."

— ELIZABETH PRANN
Editorial

Endorsement

The Alligator takes a side on the pending election

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despite the dirty politics and allegations of malfeasance that have been ongoing regarding UF's coming election, the Alligator editorial board was able to reach an overwhelming conclusion:

We hereby officially endorses Coca-Cola to be soft-drink provider to the University of Florida.

Coca-Cola has proven to be an integral part of student life throughout the history of UF, from the Classic's role in the legendary Jack and Coke scandal and Coke party staples to providing the perfect complement for any late-night munchies or cramming sessions.

In the name of history, however, we decided to set history aside and pit Coca-Cola and Pepsi products against each other in a free-for-all taste test. The final results were startling: a 5-1 victory for Coca-Cola, claiming the votes of all but one editorial board member — and he admitted that his support for Pepsi stemmed from a Coke-related childhood trauma.

In the first portion of the test, Coca-Cola won an easy victory over Pepsi, despite the protests of the sole dissenter. While it was agreed Pepsi was a better choice if a quick sugar rush was needed, Coke clearly retained its place at the top.

More controversial was the decision in favor of Pepsi's Mountain Dew, which claimed a close victory over Mello Yello. But while Mello Yello picked up some votes at the end because of its strangely addicting quality, it lost all credibility when reports confirmed it as only a shoddy effort by a company that already had lost the market on Yellow-5-heavy soda.

Not surprisingly, both competitors received no votes in the Why-Did-They-Make-This? category. Coca-Cola's Fresca, which seems to be a combination of grapefruit juice and aspirin, won by default (because it somehow has managed to last this long) over Pepsi's sure-to-be-shy-lived Sierra Mist, which is essentially a mix of Sprite and Mountain Dew with a couple of extra sugar scoops thrown in.

Sprite, of course, is the unseen hero of the Coca-Cola lineup, and one of the main reasons why the company won our support.

The widely appealing vice president to Coke's commander-in-chief, Sprite offers a taste that some love but none can deny. In the unofficial poll we administered alongside the test, Sprite won the prize for Most-Mixed-Soda-Among-UF-Students, its victory owing heavily to its partner in crime, vodka.

The bottled water category was controversial, as our lone Pepsi supporter could not decide on the result, plans to hoard bottles of the Coca-Cola-produced Dasani, because he "can't live without those little twisty tops." He did, however, fail to correctly distinguish between Dasani Aquafina (Pepsi's bottled water), and warm Gainesville tap water in a blind taste test.

In the other blind test, both Coca-Cola's Nestea and Pepsi's Lipton Brisk were disqualified immediately, because all six testers failed to categorize either drink as "tea."

Of course, Pepsi did win away with one category. Coca-Cola's Powerade somehow managed to pick up negative votes in its humiliating loss to Gatorade, which is perhaps the most disdainful little twisty top. He did, however, fail to correctly distinguish between Dasani Aquafina (Pepsi's bottled water), and warm Gainesville tap water in a blind taste test.

In the other blind test, both Coca-Cola's Nestea and Pepsi's Lipton Brisk were disqualified immediately, because all six testers failed to categorize either drink as "tea."

But even if it had not prevailed so clearly in our tests, there is one telling legend from UF history that proves that Coca-Cola is the only soda acceptable for true Gators fans.

When Gatorade was first introduced to the UF football team, one player refused to change his ritual to include the sports drink. That one man was Steve Spurrier.

And what was Spurrier's drink of choice on the sidelines? Coca-Cola.

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

Editorial board member Mike Gimignani is tonstaging editor of The Alligator.

Mike Gimignani is an editorial board member of The Alligator.
Writer leaves behind cautionary lessons on life and society

You may have heard already, but writer Hunter S. Thompson checked himself out of this world on Sunday. What is it about death that so unites us? Our knowledge and understanding grows, yet death baffles as greatly as ever. Thompson's suicide is no exception. His voice resonated with those unlucky heirs to the Beat Generation and the hippies. His writing—though rife with allusions and self-references and colored by the drugs and alcohol he was identified with—ironically was comprehensible. His style perhaps reflected reality better than traditional journalism could have. His insight ensured no one will view footage of the flower-bedecked '60s youth without a sinister undertone. "A generation of permanent cripples," he called them. His death reminds us that subsequent generations have not shaken this disease. The fundamental social changes which first emerged in the flapper era and gained momentum when the boys came back from WWII took their ultimate form in the '60s. Thompson's criticism of the '60s held that the hippies, and those who came with them, merely shifted their faith from material desires and Western religion to mind-altering substances and Eastern religion. They were the "failed seekers" who would not abandon "the desperate assumption that somebody — or at least some force — is tending that Light at the end of the tunnel."

But the truth is precisely the opposite. The fatal flaw of the '60s, from which our culture still has not recovered, was how readily we cast aside our religious and moral guides. In our lust for the righting of wrongs, we threw the baby Jesus out with the bathwater. That Thompson's social criticism misattributed the cause does not deny its value. His tales of debauchery, drug-addled stupors, government malfeasance, isolation and individualism gone mad are potent cautionary tales, all the more so for his role in them.

Is there anyone today who needs to learn these lessons more than college students? Thompson was a misguided prophet, a brilliant social critic whose sharpest barbs elicited both howling laughter and stinging loathing and fear. He by all accounts also was a wildly amusing character and well-loved. But his death should remind us that none of us is too rare to die. Luckily, there is a force tending the light at the end of the tunnel and there's time to start living accordingly.

Gavin Baker is a history freshman. His column appears on Wednesday.
Groups host ‘awareness’ barbecue in PETA parody

By KYLIE CRAIG
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Hungry UF students ate more than 100 pounds of meat in less than two hours at Tuesday’s People Enjoying Tasty Animals, or PETA, Barbeque.

The barbeque, which was hosted by UF’s College Republicans, was held to “raise awareness about the extreme efforts utilized by the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) organization and demonstrate that the consumption of meat is not inhumane,” according to a release.

The event took place at the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity house, where visitors snacked on beef, pork, venison and bratwurst.

T-shirts displaying a cartoon picture of a pig roasting over a fire were on sale, and visitors were given flyers listing “problems” with the PETA organization.

Ashley Black, secretary of the UF College Republicans, said she wanted the event to help people recognize the “extreme” views of PETA.

“A lot of people are joining it because of its nice person appeal, but it’s not nice at all. It’s a bunch of extremists,” Black said.

Hunter Williams, chairman of the College Republicans, said no complaints about the event were received.

“A lot of people are joining it because of its nice person appeal, but it’s not nice at all. It’s a bunch of extremists.”

Ashley Black
UF College Republicans secretary

Instead, a letter was sent from PETA to the College Republicans thanking them for holding the event.

The letter read, “Parody is the most sincere form of flattery. Thanks for honoring us with your event.”

Black said she first got the idea for the event after hearing about it taking place at other colleges, adding that it’s been done many times before.

“I didn’t expect anything like this,” Black said. “We thought 100 pounds of meat would be enough for two hours but we ended up having to make two trips to get more.”

Science fair inspires kids’ curiosity

■ THE REITZ UNION EVENT FEATURES 35 STUDENT-CREATED EXHIBITS.

By SKYLER SMITH
Alligator Writer
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At an engineering fair, 10-year-old Coady Latimer experiments with a remote-controlled robot to pick up a paper plate Tuesday.

Tasha Coyne / Alligator Staff

Robots, chemicals and liquid nitrogen are not typically found in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom.

On Campus today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the 60th Annual Engineering and Science Fair presented by the UF College of Engineering will feature all that.

The fair is a collection of 35 exhibits, mostly constructed by student engineering organizations.

Approximately 1,000 people pass through each day of the fair, which began Tuesday, said Priscilla Silva-Araujo, director of Engineer’s Week and an industrial and systems engineering student.

Approximately 700 of those daily visitors are children from local elementary through high schools.

“For the younger kids, we want to encourage them to pursue science and engineering,” Silva-Araujo said.

She said the fair also benefits the students who participate because the fair is a link between the real world and their classroom work.

“The fair is free for UF students and includes door prizes, such as dinner for two at Swamp Restaurant and Campus Outfitters gift certificates, given away every half-hour.

One of the participating students is Layla Booshehri, a physics junior.

She worked the Society of Physics Students’ booth, featuring a Van de Graaf generator that produces blue sparks of static electricity.

Cesar Arzu, 11, from the Anchor Center School lingered by the physics table.

“It’s pretty cool,” Arzu said.

Across the room from Booshehri, Jesse Schrader and his fellow chemical engineering majors were manning the ice-cream maker.

The ice cream was made in a large tank filled with liquid nitrogen set at a cool -196 degrees Celsius.

“It’s a lot of fun to show all the kids the experiments of science,” Schrader said.

The fair has a $20,000 budget, $12,000 of which was allocated by Student Government.

Corporate sponsors such as Boeing and Pratt & Whitney also contributed.

The fair is the main event of Engineering Week, seven days of activities ending Thursday with the carnival-like Extravaganza on the Reitz Union North Lawn.
Satsumas to be regrown

BY SKYLER SMITH
Alligator Writer
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Many years ago, Jackson County in the Panhandle grew oranges that earned it the distinction of Satsuma Capital of the World. However, miles north of most Florida citrus groves, Jackson County's crop was devastated by a 1935 freeze and never recovered fully. Now, Mack Glass has slowly begun to breathe life back into the industry with his five acres of Satsuma, or Mandarin, oranges on his farm near Marianna with help from a team of UF experts.

"Before I was born, we did have Satsumas in the area, so I decided to give it a try," Glass said. The idea for growing oranges came from UF horticulture professor Wayne Sherman and Ed Jowers, UF Jackson County Extension director. He will harvest his first crop of Satsuma oranges this fall and plans to sell locally.

George Hochmuth, director of UF's North Florida Research and Education Center, thinks that the oranges will be a good investment for Glass and other area growers. "They're a good crop. They taste good, easy to peel," he said.

Hochmuth consulted Glass about the best irrigation and fertilization techniques, and visits the grove to check on its progress. "The biggest threat is cold protection," he said.

To combat the weather, Glass has installed a UF-invented microjet irrigation system in his grove comprised of small sprinklers mounted in the trees that release small amounts of water on cold nights to protect the grove.

Glass follows the weather by using the Florida Automated Weather Network, real-time statistics developed by UF Lake County Extension agent John Jackson in 1997.

UF entomology professor Dick Sprenkel has been assisting Glass in scouting for harmful bugs, Hochmuth said.

Glass said he wanted to bring back citrus as a viable crop for North Florida growers to diversify their farms and sources of income.

ON CAMPUS

Knitting for charity

By ALLISON MYERS
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Feminist Knitting and Crocheting Circle raised $110 on Tuesday for Peaceful Paths, a domestic abuse network, by selling hats, scarves and other homemade items on the Reitz Union Colonnade.

President Sonya Stahl said the group is optimistic they'll sell plenty of items because of the art's recent rise in popularity. "People are growing out of that stereotype that knitting is just for old ladies," she said. The fundraiser was held at the suggestion of former President Taylor Ramsey.

"We picked [Peaceful Paths] because we wanted to support local women's causes, but it's also an important cause because any kind of violence in the home doesn't stop easily," Stahl said. "Kids grow up in that situation, and it can start all over again."

In regard to the group's name, Stahl said the group wants to dispel the stereotype surrounding feminism. Feminism does not oppose femininity, but simply advocates equality, she said, adding that the group has a male regular.

"People are growing out of that stereotype that knitting is just for old ladies." Sonya Stahl
Feminist Knitting and Crocheting Circle president

Member Erin McKenna said she is excited more men are finding interest in the craft. "Girls think that's really cool when guys are into something like this," she said. "It's a giant chick magnet, according to a lot of girls."

The sale continues today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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alligator
Local murder trial starts today

Gainesville man accused

By MEGAN V. WINSLOW
Alligator Writer
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The trial of a Gainesville man accused of strangling his brother and storing the body in a backyard shed is scheduled to begin today in the Alachua County Criminal Courthouse.

Neighbors alerted police on May 15, 2003, because of a foul odor emanating from Terrance Lee Looney's backyard. A search of a shed behind the house, at 215 NE 44th St., uncovered the body of Looney's brother, James Ralph Looney, 47, stuffed inside a trash can.

The Gainesville Medical Examiner's report stated he was killed sometime between late September and early October 2002.

Although he could not discuss details of the case, State Attorney's Office spokesman Spencer Mann said the prosecution is ready. "We are able to prove a cause of death, and we have established a timeline of activity by the defendant in relation to the victim," Mann said Tuesday.

Whether the prosecution's "timeline of activity" includes Terrance Looney's alleged violent behavior prior to his brother's death remains to be seen.

In 2000, he was found guilty of felony battery after breaking his brother's leg while beating him with a tree limb. His probation mandated he not have any contact with his brother.

Two years later, a concerned neighbor contacted his probation officer after witnessing an argument between the brothers, who were living together.

Terrance Looney was arrested again, but upon his release two months later, he moved back into the house with his brother, according to an Alachua County Sheriff's Office report.

When his mother failed to show up for work after a weeklong vacation in September 2002, during visits from his probation officer the defendant said he moved to Tampa.

Shortly afterward, Terrance Looney pawned his brother's tools and rented out his room to Heath Resler, the report stated.

Resler said during the 2002 holiday season, he attempted to get a Christmas tree from the shed, but Terrance refused to let him do so, according to the report. Witnesses said they saw Terrance Looney wearing clothes that belonged to his brother after his disappearance.

The second-degree murder trial is expected to last until Friday.

As of press time, defense attorney Matthew Wells could not be reached for comment.

Poker aids kids

By ELIZABETH PRANN
Alligator Writer
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Gainesville poker players interested in showing off their skills have the opportunity to compete in the Gainesville Poker Tournament beginning Saturday. The event, held to benefit STOP! Children's Cancer Inc., will include 200 students and 100 adults.

"Saturday went incredibly well," Fieldman said. "Everyone was surprised at how professional the tournament was." Game registration begins at 6 p.m., according to the event's Web site, www.gainesvillepoker.com. Students, who must present a valid student ID, will be charged a one-time $20 entrance fee to be donated to the charity. The top 10 from each tournament will move on. Gainesville Police spokesman Keith Kameg will be a participant in the tourna-
Parties support downloadable music

DEBATE, from page 1

"We need a leader at this university who's willing to take the card," Moritz said.

Goldberg emphasized the Gator Party's platform against a dry campus.

UF President Bernie Machen recently initiated a review of the school's alcohol policies.

"I think it's a privilege for people over the age of 21 to consume alcohol within their residence," Goldberg said.

Ngin agreed, but suggested that alternative entertainment for students, in the form of free concerts and speakers, would provide students with options other than drinking.

All of the candidates said they supported the online voting measure on the ballot, but Moritz said the Progress Party was responsible for a majority of the signatures acquired to put the initiative to a vote.

"Only about 20 percent of our students vote in a high-voting year," Moritz said. "That's unacceptable."

In light of the online voting initiative, Ngin encouraged students to vote regardless of their candidate of choice this semester.

"It is imperative that students make this election the last election in which we use paper ballots," Ngin said.

The candidates also agreed downloadable music from the Internet should be made available on campus.

Goldberg proposed a plan he said was adopted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in which four online vendors were used by students in a yearlong trial, and the most popular was chosen at the end.

But Ngin said a majority of music download services do not offer the capabilities most students expect.

"Some students have the misconception that you will be able to download music and burn it onto a CD," he said, noting that most services only allow songs to be played on the user's computer.

In order to have more of a say in city affairs, Moritz proposed a nonvoting, student-held City Commission seat in Gainesville.

Prior to the debate, candidates for treasurer gave brief speeches to court the vote of the 50 people in attendance.

Gator's Lindsay Cosimi, Inter-Residence Hall and Voice's Justin Lauer each spoke at the event.

The Progress Party's treasurer candidate, Susan Henriques, was unable to attend due to an exam, said vice-presidential candidate Adam Roberts.

Inter-Residence Hall Association and the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils sponsored the debate.

Officials weigh in on significance of UF joining nationwide trend of rising grades

GRADES, from page 1

Provost Joe Glover said, "The credentials of the UF student body have improved fairly substantially."

Many trace grade inflation's beginnings to the 1960s, when professors fearing failing students would be their ticket to Vietnam. Now it may be a problem with the "millennial student," or the current college generation, who are skipped the colleges of building construction and business.

"I think it's more the expectation that students bring in," he said, adding that the worst grade inflation may be happening in high school, setting unreasonable expectations for college. "The mentality of students is changing. "

"If one purpose of grades is to stratify students in relation to their peers, inflation may make it harder for graduate and professional schools to trust GPAs as a standard of admission."

Robert Jeff, dean of the Levin College of Law, said inflated grades are not a problem for law school admissions because the school sends applicants' GPAs through a company that sorts them into percentiles for their school, adjusts their GPAs and throws out some courses. The service allows the law school a "better picture of students' performance."

"There are controls in the process that basically take that (inflation) off the table," Jeff said.

In UF's graduate school, admissions are not centralized and therefore not as simple.

UF's 200 different programs each have an admissions committee, and they consider a variety of factors, not just GPA, said Kenneth Gerhardt, dean of the Graduate School.

"Grade inflation is certainly a concern for admissions," Gerhardt said. "It's not necessarily a bad thing, because GPA is only one factor in how successful a student will be in graduate school."

"Students shouldn't fret about perfect grades in fear of being rejected by graduate schools," Gerhardt said. "Other measures, such as the GRE and even a personal statement, may matter more, depending on the program."

Though UF's student body is improving, the upward trend in grading seems to have skipped the colleges of building construction and nursing.

Richard, who serves as the president of the nursing college's Faculty Organization, said the college has experienced inflation because of their criteria-based grading and licensing exams.

"If we have students who aren't passing that exam, we haven't done them a very good service," Richard said. "I think that keeps our standards pretty high."

Moreover, the majority of classes in the college rely on more than just tests for accountability, including group projects, papers and presentations, Richard said. Though they may be good test-takers, not all UF students write a good paper or are comfortable speaking before classes.

"Even though our students here at the University of Florida are very good students, other factors come into play," Richard said.

"I've never had a class where everybody achieved an A and I've been teaching for 25 years."

Inflated grades may give students a distorted sense of how well they're performing, which could give them a shock when they graduate, Richard said. UF may also need to adjust its coursework as it becomes a more elite university.

"If we're bringing in brighter and more capable students," Richard said, "then perhaps they should be challenged a little more."

 UF to overhaul current vision

TRUSTEES, from page 1

that would sum up the university and help begin a public relations campaign.

UF's "brand essence" will be the reason student and faculty come to the university, Hanley said.

"It's hard to come up with a brand essence, but once you have it, it's magical," he said.

Once all is done, UF's message will be spread from the university's various public relations departments.

Hanley said he and Pickett will present model advertisements to the Board of Trustees on March 21; however, the trustees do not have to approve any of the team's actions. The four or five samples then could be used to create multiple advertising tools such as press releases and print advertising.

The next step, he said, is to find interesting personal stories that might translate into advertisements.

To come to all these conclusions, consultants presented the trustees with lists of UF's strengths and weaknesses that emerged after more than 130 interviews.

Among UF's strengths were student and faculty loyalty, undergraduate student quality, faculty expertise, research and the sports program.

Weaknesses included ineffective marketing, faculty resources, faculty morale, inadequate funding and lack of a nationally recognized academic program.

How fast are grades going up?

Key

- Average student GPA
- Average student SAT score
- Percentage of "A" grades given

|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

While UF students' GPAs have increased remarkably steady in the past 15 years, other indicators have fluctuated wildly.

Mike Gillis/Alligator Staff

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5 Real Estate

6 Furnishings

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

Gators drive away as Mercedes-Benz champions

By NICK ZACCARDI
Alligator Writer

On the 25th anniversary of the U.S. hockey team's "Miracle on Ice," the UF men's golf team provided their own small miracle on Tuesday.

Matt Every claimed the individual title by one shot at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championships to lead the Gators, who ripped up the course with a tournament-best 280 (-8) to cap the come-from-behind victory. It's always fun for a coach to watch his team come from behind and play well when the tournament is on the line," men's golf coach Buddy Alexander said. "I think this tournament victory validates our win at the Gator Invitational a little more because we weren't playing on our home course [this time]."

UF outlasted second-round leader Alabama by 5 shots, finishing the three-day tournament at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach at 874 (+10).

"We had an awful fall and now we have two wins under our belt this season."

The team played poorly in the fall, but Every turned in his best performance of the season just two weeks ago at the Gator Invitational. The junior finished in a tie for 4th at UF leapfrogged Wake Forest on the final day.

"When we won two weeks ago, I didn't play that well," Every said. "I credit that win to the rest of the team."

"To be honest, I didn't play that well today. I just didn't shoot myself in the foot." Richard Trei, who spurred the Gators' win in Gainesville with a final-round 60, did the same thing on Tuesday with the lowest round of the tournament, a 5-under-par 67.

The senior came back after carding a second-round 82 to complete a bogey-free 18 holes with five birdies Tuesday, good for a tie for 19th. "Richard was a huge factor in our come-back today," Alexander said. "It took a lot of courage and trust to bounce back and play as well after struggling so much the day before."

"If there were a game ball to give out for today's round, you'd give it to Richard for his performance down the stretch." Brett Stegmaier turned in his best effort of the week in the final round, shooting a 2-under 70 to finish in a tie for sixth. It was the junior's second straight top-10 finish.

WOMEN IN SECOND: Tiffany Chudy is looking down at the rest of the field, but the UF women's golf team is looking up at Auburn after the second round of the Puerto Rico Classic. The freshman turned in a round of even-par 72 at the Dorado Del Mar Country Club to take a 1-stroke lead going into today's final round in San Juan.

"She's shot two solid rounds, but both of her rounds could have been better," women's golf coach Jill Briles-Hinton said.

Led by Chudy, six UF golfers recorded rounds in the 70s to propel the Gators to second in the team standings, 7 shots behind Alabama.

Senior Andrea Vander Lende shot a 74 (+2) placing her in a tie for fourth. Camila Gonzalez followed a first-round 80 with a one-under 71 to move to the junior into a tie for 21st.

Individual player Eleanor Tucker, a freshman, stands in a tie for 25th after a 6-over-par 82.

UF relief pitcher Mike Pete logged a win against Florida A&M on Tuesday by striking out five Rattlers in 3.2 innings of work. He allowed just one hit.

"I knew when I got the ball, I probably shouldn't have thrown it," Pete said. "Sometimes, you just let it go, you want to kick yourself after it happens. But you can't let it bother you. Just come back, throw it and you'll be fine."

"I knew when I got the ball, I probably shouldn't have thrown it," Pete said. "Sometimes, you just let it go, you want to kick yourself after it happens. But you can't let it bother you. Just come back, throw it and you'll be fine."
Walk-ons work hard for their turn in the spotlight

COACH SAYS GYMNASTS KNOW THEIR TEAM ROLES.

By DAN TREAT
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Behind the glitter and glamour of college athletics, there are those who often toil in anonymity. Those who work just as hard as their teammates, but with much lower rewards.

There are also a few who have the ability to overcome these obstacles to shine in the spotlight.

Welcome to the world of the walk-on.

Gymnastics is a full scholarship sport, and, if UF's 16 competitors are on an athletic scholarship. But the five who aren't still show up to practice every day and give it all they have.

"It's harder just because you work as hard as everyone else," junior Beth Kleiman said.

"You work hard, and the rewards are smaller. You have to take everything as a reward."

Coach Rhonda Faehn, however, makes it clear to every athlete who enters her program what their position will be.

"That's something we're very straightforward about and make clear from the start, that each person on the team has a specific role," Faehn said. "They know if they're going to be able to compete or not or exhibition or not. They all learn and know that their roles are just as important as being out there on the competition floor. Everything they are doing is an integral part of the success of this team."

Kleiman's duty, for example, is to organize equipment changes between routines.

"I feel like I have to work harder in the gym to prove myself and earn my spot on the team. But we're treated the same. It's not like we get downgraded because we're a walk-on."

Owens competed on uneven bars and vault her freshman season, but was hampered by knee injuries in both her freshman and sophomore seasons. She has become a bars specialist and earned the first top-three finish of her career against Auburn on Feb. 1.

Although Faehn describes all her gymnasts as dedicated, walk-ons have to maintain high academics while training for a meet that may never come.

"There's a balance. There definitely has to be one," Owens said. "Because of the study time that's involved, you have to study around practice."

Or while warming up for practice, as Kleiman caught up on organic chemistry before Tuesday's session.

For Kleiman, it's all about small rewards. She got one against Auburn, competing for the first time.

"It was awesome. It felt like everything finally paid off," Kleiman said. "All of the surgery and hard work and sweat and tears finally came together."

"All I wanted was a chance. One of the coaches told me 'Perseverance finally paid off, and it did.'"

Final home game has significance for Gators seniors

By MICHAEL MAURINO
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In every season there are games that can make or break a team's postseason dreams. The women's basketball team may have such a game against No. 18 Georgia on Thursday.

But for seniors Tishona Gregory, Tasha Morehead, and Tamia Williams, the game has even more significance: it will be the final time they don orange and blue in front of a home crowd.

Gregory said that she has been trying not to think about her final game so the emotions do not affect her.

"I don't want to get myself overemotional or get myself worked up about it," the guard said. "I don't like to see this day come, but it has to, so I'll just make the best of the situation."

Gregory has started every game of the past two seasons. She has already last season's assist and steal marks while averaging about 6 points a game.

Williams, meanwhile, is having her best season ever. She began filling in when junior Danielle Santos was injured in December and has been in the lineup ever since.

Averaging 12.6 points a game, she leads the team with 61 three-pointers, and has been the game's top scorer eight times. Entering this season, Williams averaged 4.2 points a game.

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FEBRUARY 23, 2005
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Lee’s finale rapidly approaching

By BRYAN APP
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As reporters pressed David Lee to relate his feelings as his final UF home game approaches, the lone Gators senior shook the sappy mood.

“You all act like I’m dying,” Lee responded.

The quip drew a round of laughs and injected a bit of perspective. He’s not done yet. Be it a collegiate afterlife with a deep NCAA Tournament run or a potential reincarnation into the pro ranks, time still remains for his hoops-centric existence.

But a significant portion of Lee’s playing days will evaporate when he steps onto the O’Connell Center court for the second-to-last time in UF’s rematch against Vanderbilt (16-10, 6-6 Southeastern Conference) tonight at 8 p.m.

The senior claimed he hasn’t given his impending UF finale against Kentucky on March 6 much emotional attention.

“I guess it will hit me when I do actually step out there for the last time,” Lee said.

But like a condemned prisoner aware of his waning final moments, Lee admitted his final days as a Gators player have evoked a sense of urgency.

Coach Billy Donovan hopes to capitalize on the situation.

Donovan said he reminds Lee of his remaining number of O’Connell Center outings before every home game.

Chaps the strategy is beginning to work.

As the Gators (16-7, 8-4 SEC) teetered on the brink of a potential SEC title last weekend, Lee received heavy criticism for being too spontaneous during a loss to Kentucky.

Lee’s finale rapidly approaching.

For the complete Louis in the Bullpen story, pg. 19.

Free-throwers fear ‘Moose’

Polite or not, you have to stare. You can’t miss the visual exclamation point that is the green Speedo.

You can’t turn away from the moose head, either. The spell has begun.

You only imagine how an opposing basketball player at roughly 20 feet away would freak out at the sight. Or laugh. Or miss a free throw.

“I try to get one or two misses every game,” says Moose.

“Moose” is 63-year-old Ron Davis, an avid Gators fan since the days of Dwight Eisenhower and a free-throw deterrent since 1988. At every UF men’s basketball home game, Davis makes opponents miss as many free throws as possible.

Davis parks himself two rows deep beneath the west basket— the hoop where UF’s opponents shoot during the first half. He brings wife Alicia, who has attended every Gators home game with her love for 37 years. They’ve been married for 36 years.

Davis has his inanimate buddies as well: the striking bright green Speedo and his moose hat. Davis morphs into the backdrop until a player from the other team tosses the charity stripe.

Davis stands, hunches forward, then holds his swimsuit or moose hat high for everyone— especially the free-throw shooter— to see.

Then Davis begins swaying from side to side while gesturing, the Speedo/moose hat. Davis does this seriously: almost like a preacher displaying the Holy Scriptures.

Then Davis speaks to the free-throw shooter with his eyes.

The senior claimed he would hit one or two misses every game, “I just gotta be ready to go in at any time.”

Coach Pat McMahon stressed that his players not take the free-throw deterrent for granted after winning two of three games against then-No. 2 ranked Miami last weekend.

A day after being named SEC player of the week, first baseman Matt LaPorta began making a case for a repeat award.

LaPorta had four hits in five at-bats, crushing a three-run home run in the sixth inning and hitting his first career triple in the fifth. He notched two singles but struck out in his final at-bat.

Gators repeat crushing performance against FAMU

By TIM CASEY
Alligator Writer
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When UF’s offense did not let up on winless Florida A&M Tuesday night, as the Gators piled up two runs on seven hits.

The Gators repeat crushing performance against FAMU.

For the complete Louis in the Bullpen story, pg. 19.

For the complete LSU story, pg. 19.

For the complete LSU story, pg. 19.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

1991: The UF women’s swimming and diving team wins its sixth consecutive SEC title.

Nicole Haislett was named SEC Swimmer of the Year while Mitch Ivey was named SEC Men’s Coach of the Year.

ON TELEVISION

NCAA Men’s Basketball: Duke vs. Georgia Tech
ESPN, 7 p.m.

NCAA Men’s Basketball: Boston College vs. Villanova
ESPN2, 9 p.m.