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UF ACADEMICS

Writing requirement adds new grading component

By MADISON BEERBOHM
Alligator Contributing Writer

Students will need to brush up on their writing skills because of new changes made to UF’s writing requirement.

Formerly called the Gordon Rule, the mandate requires students to take courses in which they write a total of 24,000 words before graduation. Originally, the Gordon Rule was added to a student’s grade for the class.

New changes to the requirement include an additional grading component, according to the UF Web site.

Professors will give students a course grade and indicate whether or not the writing component has been completed.

In order to receive credit for the writing requirement, students must earn a grade of C or higher and satisfy the writing portion. It is possible to pass and receive credit for a class, even if the writing component is not completed.

The General Education Committee was concerned that the requirement wasn’t strong enough, said UF associate provost Andrew McCollough. The undergraduate curriculum needed to find a better way to teach students to communicate through writing.

But faculty are not required to follow the new changes, he said, because the additional component would add extra work. Those who opt to follow the new rule will devote more time and attention to both aspects of the course outcome.

“I hope it will encourage students to write as well as they can,” he said.

Andrew McCollough
UF associate provost

Writing requirement adds new grading component

UF ACADEMICS

Bright Futures recipients will pay for tuition increases

By ABBIE PARKER
Alligator Contributing Writer

With tuition increasing and Bright Futures payouts staying the same, UF students are going to have to find ways to foot the bill.

Starting this fall, tuition will increase from $125.09 per credit hour to $145.76 per credit hour. Bright Futures recipients will pay for tuition increases that Bright Futures won’t cover in different ways.

Matthew Carlos, a statistics junior, said he has to take out loans every year for school because he doesn’t qualify for financial aid such as a Pell Grant.

“My parents make too much money for me to get financial aid, but at the same time, they don’t give me money, either,” Carlos said.

Carlos said he will take out a bigger loan this fall to pay his tuition.

“It’s true — every penny does count,” he said.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Jeanna Mastrodicasa said Student Government, individual students and various firms will lobby for tuition increases.

Some students might not like the increases, but SG did pass it, she said. And the increases will improve education by making more funding available for university programs.

“The ones we are concerned about are the ones who can’t afford it,” she said.

UF has created programs that help students save money. The UF Off-Campus Life office teaches students how to reduce their utility bills, avoid getting towed and reduce unnecessary spending.

Students aren’t aware of how much money they actually spend, Mastrodicasa said.

She also said recent studies have shown that the average undergraduate’s parental income is about $115,000, and UF has quite a few students who get leftover money from Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid.

But John Dickerson, an advertising senior, said he has both Florida Prepaid and the Bright Futures Medallion scholarship and doesn’t expect to get money back this year.

“The money I normally get back is just enough to cover my books, so I don’t have to pay out of pocket, but this year I will have to pay for my books out of pocket,” he said. “It just sucks.”
The ABCs of Gainesville

By Emily Fuggetta and Katie Emmets

Albert & Alberta: This furry duo rocks the Gators sports games and you’re likely to get a high five or a hug from one of them before you graduate. Albert and Alberta appear on the field and courthouse and love to work the crowd.

Drama: There is never a dull moment in Gainesville with multiple venues for the performing arts. Located on campus, the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts will hold popular musicals such as “Hairspray,” “Cats” and “Avenue Q” this coming season. Tickets can be purchased online at ticketmaster.com

Gator Growl: As the largest student-run pep rally in the world, with more than 500 student volunteers, Gator Growl is in its 86th year at UF. Held on the Friday night of Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 16), Gator Growl invites fans of all ages to The Swamp for live music, comedy and Gator spirit. This year, Dana Carvey will tickle our collective funny bone.

Eats: Gainesville is great for getting your grub on. From a walk-up pizza window on University Avenue to vegan-friendly ice cream shop Karma Cream down the same street, you won’t suffer from Monotonous Munchie Syndrome. Some local favorites are Satchel’s Pizza, which admits to taking a while to serve your mind-blowing pie, Luca’s Pasta, where you can build your own noodle dish Subway-style, Chopstix Cafe, a sit-down pan-Asian restaurant, and El Indio, a tiny standalone drive-through that offers cheap, authentic Mexican cuisine and the best Guacamole this side of Tijuana. Whatever your tastes, Gainesville can offer some serious chow.

Hippodrome: This downtown Gainesville landmark sticks out like a sore thumb because of its Roman-like architectural beauty. The Hipp was built in 1911 as a federal building which included a post office and a courtroom. Since 1981, the building has housed performing arts productions year round including two Christmas plays: “A Tuna Christmas” and “A Christmas Carol.”

Krishna Lunch: Every day, rain or shine, you can get a heaping plateful of vegetarian or vegan food on the Plaza of the Americas for a $4 donation. Bring your own plate and get a discount. Don’t worry, it’s not a trap — the Krishnas don’t push their religious beliefs on their customers. They say the food includes the perfect dose of spirituality without them saying a word.

Century Tower: If you happen to hear bells chiming over the music on your iPod, they are coming from this Gainesville landmark, which was built in 1953 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of UF. Originally intended to house a historic museum and art gallery, Century Tower was dedicated to UF students who were killed in World Wars I and II. In 1976, a cast-bells carillon was installed and now plays every quarter hour with longer concerts on weekends and during special university events.

Independent Florida Alligator: That’s right — the little gem you have in your paws right now. With more than 300 boxes peppering UF and the surrounding areas, it’s no challenge to find yourself a copy. The Alligator keeps students and Gainesville residents informed about UF and local news. It also provides a great diversion when you should be listening to a lecture in microeconomics.

Lake Alice Bat House: Chiroptophobes, stay away from this Gainesville landmark. Every night at sundown, more than 100,000 bats fly out of the largest bat house in North America and eat their body weight in insects. Most nights, a crowd of about 30 watches — more on cool nights — and some say the bats poop on heads if you’re not careful. But hey, you can thank the bats for the lack of creepy-crawlies in your dorm.

Lake Alice Bat House: Chiroptophobes, stay away from this western part of campus. Every night at sundown, more than 100,000 bats fly out of the largest bat house in North America and eat their body weight in insects. Most nights, a crowd of about 30 watches — more on cool nights — and some say the bats poop on heads if you’re not careful. But hey, you can thank the bats for the lack of creepy-crawlies in your dorm.

Java: Fear not, coffee fiends — living in Gainesville, you will probably never be more than 100 yards away from a java joint. It’s not just the dozen or so Starbucks, either. Gainesville is home to plenty of funky shops for you to get your study on. And if your preference is tea, Gainesville’s got you covered there, too.

Machen: The big man. The head honcho. El numero uno. Bernie Machen is UF’s Harley-driving president, and he rakes in nearly half a million a year — excluding his hefty annual bonuses. But to his credit, el presidente did promise to donate nearly $300,000 in bonuses last year to the UF Foundation to help soften the blow of budget cuts. In recent years, Machen has cracked down on alcohol, and it seems to be paying off — UF was just recognized as a model school for alcohol prevention.

Nightlife: While Gainesville has more than 50 bars, clubs and places that serve alcohol, Midtown is the hot spot for those who live on or near campus because it’s just a quick walk away. Be careful though, the City of Gainesville has recently instituted a bar ordinance, which will fine bars and clubs that are caught with underage drinkers, so officers will be on the prowl.

Orange & Blue: Although you have now made a commitment to give your life, and your money, to UF over the next four years, we would venture to guess that you don’t know why orange and blue were chosen to represent your future alma mater (because we didn’t). In 1910, there were two college institutions that merged to form the UF that we all know and love today. Blue was picked from The University of Florida at Lake City, which had school colors of blue and white and orange came from East Florida Seminary in Gainesville, which had orange and black.
Quarterback: If you say you haven’t heard of him, you’re lying. Tim Tebow — hands down the most famous face in Gainesville — has two national football championships and a Heisman trophy under his belt. Spotting him around campus is easy — just look for the gaggle of giggling girls trailing him at about 5 feet.

Renewable Energy: After years of planning, the U.S. is on the map when it comes to renewable energy, and Gainesville was the city that put it there. Feed-in tariffs have allowed Gainesville Regional Utilities to buy 100 percent of the solar energy produced by houses and businesses. GRU buys the solar energy produced at $0.32 per kilowatt-hour and sells it back to the private vendor for $0.12 per kilowatt-hour.

Underwear Dash: For eight years, UF students have been stripping down to their skivvies and running along University Avenue — but it’s for a good cause. The clothes that students take off are donated to the Salvation Army. Screaming and chanting UF songs like, “It’s great to be a Florida Gator,” students began participating in the dash in September of 2005.

Zoo: Home to two painfully adorable baby Asian small-clawed otters, the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day. Tours are given seven days a week, but appointments must be made on weekdays. Tickets are $4 and free for SFC students with an ID. And no, they won’t foster your little brother.

Traffic: If you have a class that ends at 4:55, you may want to grab a latte and park it on the Plaza of the Americas because you’re not going anywhere. Most afternoons, Archer Road and 13th Street become a gridlocked nightmare for about an hour as students and city residents flood the streets trying to get home.

Parking Enforcement: They come bearing yellow envelopes that can take your day from bad to worse with just a glimpse. They drive around in white vans. They’re parking enforcement officers, and you can’t escape them. Parking on campus in a restricted zone or without a decal will run you $30. A similar offense off campus costs $15, and the envelopes are a far less terrifying white.

Student Government: UF’s governing body controls more than $13 million of your money, so paying close attention to its dealings might be wise. You’ll get to know the parties well leading up to the SG election because you’ll be bombarded with campaign materials wherever you go.

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Editorial
Welcome to UF
Where you can write whatever you like

I
n introducing incoming freshmen to the Opinions pages of the Alligator, we have to temporarily revert (at least mentally) to what it was like to move to Gainesville. The only guideline we have to go on for the inaugural editorial is “something freshmen would like.”

In the past, this section of the New Student Edition has served as a welcome wagon of sorts, or, put another way, a set of laurels for your high school accomplishments with a plug to read the Alligator at the end (plug taken care of — Darts & Laurels runs here every Friday).

Unfortunately, though, it’s difficult to write something that 6,000 diverse, intelligent, talented and eager young adults would unanimously “like.”

There are some of you who will rush to college to join a fraternity or sorority, and there are some of you who wouldn’t step foot inside a frat house for all the Natty Ice in the world. Hell, there are even some of you who don’t know what Natty Ice is yet. (Don’t worry, you will learn.)

But that’s certainly not all you’ll become acquainted with when you attend college in Gainesville. Besides the plethora of fine dining (substituting Leo’s for Piza Hut is akin to eating at the T.G.I. Friday’s in Times Square, FYI), you’ll be meeting an entirely new cast of characters. We’re not just referring to the social feeding frenzy that will occur in your first semester, although that can be a pretty big deal. You’ll also come across a whole new slew of people to adore and despise through this very publication.

After all, that’s what pages 6 and 7 of the Alligator are about.

There are figures in Gainesville who you should care about other than Tim Tebow (although we’ll be the first to admit that Tebow is a superhuman who could plow through the entire supply of New Student Editions using the raw power of his tree-trunk-esque neck alone). With that sentiment in mind, we promise to acquaint you with all of them. And if we think a national news story would be relevant and interesting to you, you can read about it here as well.

But back to you. Some of you will crusade for local causes, some of you will crusade for Christ (this is not an invocation of the historical event, it’s a reference to an on-campus organization) and some of you will crusade mightily to a bibliophile’s Mecca, known around these parts as Library West.

We’re not trying to belabor the diversity theme, but it leads us to our point: Instead of us trying to figure out what you “like,” why don’t you tell us?
The Alligator is your forum as much as it is ours. Something you’d like to have covered? We welcome columns and letters.

We wouldn’t dream of being able to accurately reflect each and every one of you without your help. So, send away (since you got into college, we assume that you are capable of crafting a body of 250 coherent words — feel free to take this as a challenge).

As we said before, these pages are about you as much as they are about us. And we like that.

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Opinions
Got an opinion? The Alligator wants it

W
riting columns for the Alligator was never my first choice — I wanted to be a reporter. I’ve since realized I have zero aptitude for that profession, but that’s what I wanted to do. After trying and failing and trying and failing, I decided to submit something to letters@alligator.org. To my surprise, it was published as a guest column. When I got the e-mail asking for my classification and major, I turned to my roommate and said, “I am going to be opinions editor of the Alligator by the end of the summer.” And it happened.

This isn’t trying to give you some Dickensian rags-to-riches bildungsroman with a journalism twist that puts me on the back for achieving my goals (although I gotta shout out to Ashley — told you I could do it, girl), but rather a way to illustrate the point that anyone can get involved with the opinions section (yep, even someone who got a C-plus in Reporting for editorializing every single story that she turned in despite her teacher telling her to cut it out every time).

But seriously, you do not have to be a journalism student, and your commitment doesn’t have to be large. Letters can be sent via snail mail or to letters@alligator.org. The letters section acts as a forum for Alligator readers, whether they be students, faculty, staff or Gainesville residents.

Or you can take the path that I took and write a guest column. Columns are usually about 500 words and either cover an original topic or are written in response to anything that appears in the Alligator or on its Web site.

If you’re interested in submitting either of these in the future, take note: The e-mail’s subject line is really important. Leaving the subject line blank is not inviting, mysterious or seductive. You might be thinking, “They’ll totally open it because they’ll wanna know what’s inside!”

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

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Column
Allie Conti
Got an opinion? The Alligator wants it

Nop, we don’t like Trojan viruses. You should probably title it either “Letter to the Editor” or “Guest Column,” depending on what you’re submitting. I don’t think that you would consider making your subject line something with the words “free vibrator,” “loan offer” or “discount prescription drugs,” but we might need to tell you up front not to have it contain “Sierra Leone” (less obvious, right?), even if your submission is about Sierra Leone, blood diamonds, the movie “Blood Diamond” or Kanye West. Each week we get about 9,000 “Dear sir or madam I am in trouble and need someone I can trust to hold my millions of USD in their bank accounts because I am fleeing from guerrilla warriors/rebels/political reactionaries, please respond promptly” scam e-mails, so now we are operantly conditioned to ignore e-mails about Africa unless the intent is clearly stated.

Oh, and another obvious one: Please write all submissions in English.

And that’s all you need to know. If you disagree with a columnist, let him or her know in the form of a letter or response column. If there is some injustice in Gainesville that we haven’t covered, let us know. Your response lets us know how we’re doing.

And one more thing: If you send your bank account information to the opinions editor, you are slated to receive 9 million USD from Olga Jones, a mysterious benefactor who lives in Cote d’Ivoire. This was a test to see if you could pay attention and therefore submit to the Alligator, and you passed. See? Easy stuff.

Allie Conti is the opinions editor of the Alligator.

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Reader response
Today’s question: Do you miss home yet?

Aug. 6 question: Would you wear your birthday suit to take out the trash?

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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Guest column
SG offers opportunities for involvement on campus

Although I doubt that I am the first person at UF that you have heard this from, I would like to welcome you to the University of Florida.

As the newest generation of Gators, you have four years of academics, athletics and achievement to look forward to. My first four years at UF were as fun as they were challenging, packed full of friends that will last me a lifetime, professors that I will always remember and organizations that gave me a purpose that was more than just earning good grades. Of those hundreds of organizations available at your fingertips, there is bound to be one area on campus that fits your interests.

To me, Student Government was the most interesting group on campus. This is because SG is involved in almost all parts of campus life. At the most simple level, SG allocates the activity and service fees that are included in your tuition to go towards different entertainment programs on campus. In the past few semesters, that has included things like funding student groups, presenting shows like Lupe Fiasco and Carael, bringing the comedians Lewis Black and Bob Saget and providing controversial and informative speakers like Sen. John Kerry and Bob Saget.

In the past few semesters, that has included different entertaining programs on campus. For example, bringing the comedians Lewis Black and Bob Saget.

In the past few semesters, that has included different entertaining programs on campus. For example, bringing the comedians Lewis Black and Bob Saget.

SG is also involved in student fees. Whether you realize it or not, SG will affect some part of your life as a UF student in the next four years. So why not get involved? One of the best things about SG is that you don’t have to be a political science major to help make your campus a better place. Any student can apply for positions in one of our many cabinets that focus on a wide area of areas like housing, multicultural affairs, advertising or technology, just to name a few. Or if you are more interested in representing your college or residence area directly, you can get involved in Student Senate. It doesn’t matter what college or background you are because you can always find some way to get active if you are interested in making a difference here at UF for everyone.

I’m sure that whatever path you take on your journey here at UF, you will gain experiences and knowledge that will be unique and valuable for each of you. I hope you enjoy every moment of it. But if you want a hand in how the campus really works, come by my office sometime. Enjoy your freshman year — it is sure to be unforgetable. And as always, go Gators!

Jordan Johnson
Student Body president at UF

Column
Freshmen: Remember importance of academics

Greetings, oh young and naive freshman!

As a sophomore, I have only one year as a Gator under my belt, but already I’m certain that your years at UF will be the best in your life.

My freshman experience was typical of most baby Gators. There were a few all-nighters, a few too many parties and, for the first few days, the campus map became my third hand. I have found that these are telling signs of a freshman. Other signs of new meat include: Roaming campus in packs of 20 on days that aren’t game days; dressing entirely in Orange and Blue or Abercrombie and Fitch; and passing out on University Avenue at 11 p.m. because you’ve just discovered the wonders of alcohol.

I could go on about the pratfalls of being a freshman, but I won’t. It’s much more important that freshman don’t miss out on experiences unique to UF. Please, for the love of Tebow and all that is holy, go to the Swamp every chance you get — if not to watch the Gators cream their opponents on the dew-soaked turf of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, then to bask in the glory of the Gator Nation while running stadiums each afternoon.

Take advantage of Lake Wauburg, where you can go boating, canoeing, kayaking and even sailing. All you need is your Gator 1 Card, some friends and a Frisbee or football. Or both.

Become active in a campus organization. Want to know how to make a humongous university small? This is how. Chances are, there exists an organization on campus catering to even your most obscure hobbies and interests.

Also, remember why you’re here in the first place and put academics first. In times of self-doubt and even pity when trying to finish that long research paper or when sitting through that first day of an advanced math class, just realize that if you were smart enough to get into UF, you’re smart enough to graduate in four years. Or five. Or six. Shoot for four and you’ll make your parents much happier. Create your own freshman experience. Don’t let others try to dictate what you should or shouldn’t do, and remember that at UF we’re all on this ride together.

After all, doesn’t the word sophomore just mean “wise fool” in Greek? Google it yourself, Brainiac.

Matthew Christ is a political science sophomore. His column appears weekly.
Senior status doesn’t mean you’ll know it all

December of my junior year, I was sitting in my friend Jen’s apartment drinking sangria. I was also about to fail my organic chemistry class, which I was taking for the third time after dropping it twice.

I was complaining about how I just didn’t care at all about organic chemistry anymore — how I couldn’t force myself to want to do the work.

And then, Jen said something that would change the remainder of my time at UF: “I’ve learned that it’s not worth doing anything that doesn’t make you happy in the short or the long term.”

That’s one of the many things I wish I had known as a freshman. By the end of your four years of college, you’ll probably have too many of those lightbulb moments to count; moments where your all-consuming problem is suddenly solved, despite the solution being so commonsense that it was probably an episode on Sesame Street.

My college experience hasn’t taught me everything, but I have learned a few things along the way that would have made it easier if I had known them when I moved into the dorms my first year here.

Here are a few:

— High school never ends. I’m sorry to be the one to break this to you. I know that for the past few months you’ve been too embroiled in things like, “I’m so excited to be done with all this drama,” and “Finally, people will see beyond stereotypes like geek, jock or bikini.”

Unfortunately, high school was just training for the rest of your life as far as drama and stereotypes go, and college students are as good at judging people as if you were still kids were. Learn to anticipate the gossip and judgment, and avoid it accordingly.

— Go to class. No, every class is not necessarily worth your time. But you won’t know that until after the first test. Keep in mind, also: Time spent in class is time you’re probably make up for in studying if you don’t go. Sure, reruns of “Scrubs” might seem more important than your rocks for jocks lecture, but you absorb more by just sitting in than you think.

And that movie on volcanoes is pretty awesome.

— Call your parents. Even if you’re on full scholarship, they’ve given 18 years of their lives to get you to this point. They’ve earned the right to hear about your life.

Plus, if they’re anything like my parents, the University Police Department will probably be red alert if you haven’t answered your phone in a couple weeks.

— Stop worrying. No one really cares if you look at a campus map — we can tell you’re freshmen without it. Girls, you will find some way to shave your legs in the dorm showers. You have four years to screw up your life.

Chances are you won’t make every mistake your first year. Just calm down.

— Do things that make you happy. It seems so simple, but it took me three years to really believe in it. I’ve known people who have gotten majors in areas they really didn’t enjoy because it was what someone else wanted for them: parents, high school teachers or peers.

College is a time to find out what you love, and you might not know what that is right away. Take classes in lots of different areas. You don’t have to know what you want to do for the rest of your life at age 18. Able to wake up one morning and realize the things that always made you happy suddenly aren’t anymore, talk to someone about it. Depression is different areas in the fast-paced university world, and it’s easy to miss if it’s happening to you.

— Take it easy. Like football.

Nuff said.

Hilary Lehman is a journalism senior and former managing editor / print of the Alligator.
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Cultural attractions offer plenty to see, do in Gville

By PATRICK ANNESTY
Alligator Contributing Writer

As the largest city in Alachua County and a major crossroad in north central Florida, Gainesville is an eclectic meeting point in the heart of the state. The city offers a wealth of cultural activities to experience.

UF’s Cultural Plaza is on the edge of campus at the intersection of Southwest 34th Street and Hull Road and includes a natural history museum, an art museum and a performing arts center.

The Florida Museum of Natural History is largest natural history museum in the Southeast with more than 25 million specimens of wildlife. It is the state’s official natural history museum and is located on the Cultural Plaza.

Next door, the Samuel P. Ham Museum of Art houses more than 7,000 works in permanent collections that include photography as well as Asian, African, modern and contemporary art.

The museum also hosts exhibits from around the nation. Currently, the “Rediscovering Slobodkina: A Pioneer in American Abstraction” display showcases the work of Esphyr Slobodkina, one of the first female American abstract artists.

Across the plaza from the Ham, The Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts seats 1,700, and has hosted a wide range of acts from Broadway shows such as “Cats” and “Riverdance” to artists Ray Charles and Wynton Marsalis.

Gainesville native alternative-rock band Sister Hazel will perform Sept. 18.

Other high-profile shows scheduled for the Phillips Center this school year include “Avenue Q” in November and “Hairspray” in February. “Cats” will return in January.

The center also contains the 180-seat Squitieri Studio Theatre, formerly known as the Black Box Theatre. This venue provides an intimate setting for new artists.

Outside the university, the city is also home to a vibrant arts scene rich in theater and music.

The Hippodrome State Theatre, or “the Hipp,” is located downtown and puts on both Broadway and off-Broadway shows. The next play to debut will be “Up” by Bridget Carpenter on Sept. 4.

The Hipp also houses an 80-seat cinema that shows art house films.

The building occupied by the theater formerly housed the Gainesville U.S. Post Office and Courthouse and is one of the few remaining historic structures downtown. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gainesville is also home to several community theaters showcasing professional and amateur performers alike.

The Gainesville Community Playhouse, founded in 1927, is the oldest community theater group in the state of Florida. The group performs at the Yaym York Theater at 4039 NW 16th Blvd. On Sept. 4, the Playhouse will open its “Shakespeare in Hollywood” performance, which will run through Sept. 20.

The Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, located in the Baird Center, 619 S Main St., welcomes participants of all experience levels. The theater also supports a young acting group, the Student Ensemble Theatre.

SEE CULTURE, PAGE 11
The city’s premier art exhibits are housed in the Thomas Center, at 302 NE Sixth Ave., with two separate galleries.

In the main gallery, the Ninth Annual Regional Juried Exhibition currently showcases 36 works from artists, painters and photographers from around the state. The building in which the center is located is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both UF and Gainesville have their own orchestra made up of students and professionals, respectively.

The university orchestra performs in the The University Auditorium on campus, and auditions are required for each chair.

The Gainesville Chamber Orchestra, a group of professional musicians residing in the city, gives both formal performances and free outdoor shows each year.

The city hosts events throughout the year on the Bo Diddley Community Plaza downtown at Southeast First Street and East University Avenue. Every Friday from May to October, the “Let’s Go Downtown Free Friday’ Series” brings local acts to perform shows free and open to the public. Shows begin at 8 p.m. and last until 10 p.m.

Later in the fall, the downtown area is closed off and transformed into an outdoor fine arts festival, which typically draws more than 100,000 guests and showcases the work of more than 250 artists. The Downtown Festival and Arts Show, now in its 28th year, will be Nov. 14 and 15.

The city also boasts a popular underground music scene (check out gainesvillebands.com). And if the arts aren’t your thing, there’s still a decent football team.
UF has more than 600 student groups

By MEGAN TAYLOR
Alligator Writer

No excuses, newbies — with more than 600 student organizations at UF, there’s a place for everyone to find a niche, make friends and gather resume lines. Between academic, athletic, cultural, faith-based, political, service and social clubs, there’s a place for everyone to find his or her passion.

IDEAL is an organization that connects members with fellow students who are looking to get involved and helps them find out which organizations best fit them.

IDEAL makes getting involved easy and fun for students by promoting different organizations, helping organizations develop and stay strong and serving as a resource for The Gator Nation.

Campus clubs offer volunteer, leadership experience

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Singapore State Reception, Freshman Phone-A-Thon and Family Housing Carnival.

The organization also hosts a Family Weekend for all UF students, which gives them the opportunity to invite their families to the campus and spend a weekend with other families.

For UF’s human rights advocates, Amnesty International is a branch of the national organization dedicated to supporting the global efforts to protect human rights.

The organization writes petitions and letters and hosts educational forums and protests in support of peace and other demonstrations.

Student Government is the largest student-run organization on campus.

The opportunities within SG Student Life consist of multiple sections of government including the cabinet, the judicial branch and the Senate, for those interested in politics or law.

Hosting hundreds of events each year, other branches are committed to representing the UF student body.

With departments in Women’s Affairs, Outreach, Multi-cultural Affairs, Housing Affairs, Community Involvement and numerous others, SG has a spot for everyone to get involved and serve our campus.

For UF students who feel they were born to lead, the Florida Leadership Academy offers training for a future in the business world.

Florida Leadership Academy trains students to use their leadership skills to their full potential and become America’s future top business executives and company CEOs.

The academy is business-oriented and accepts only the top freshmen from the Warrington College of Business.

UF has several religion-based organizations, and Campus Crusade for Christ is one of the most well-known and active groups on campus.

The group holds weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings along with special retreats and discipleship opportunities.

Jewish Student Union hosts events throughout the year to promote social and cultural activities, including Fall Welcome Week, holiday parties for Hanukkah, Passover and other Jewish holidays and Israel Awareness Week.

The Jewish Student Union works very closely with other Jewish organizations such as Gators for Israel and UF Hillel.

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Floppy Hat and New Drawstring Tank Dress

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Campus dining helps fight feared ‘Freshman 15’

By SARA WATSON
Alligator Staff Writer

If “you are what you eat” were really true, thousands of freshmen would turn into slices of pizza after a few weeks at UF. Fortunately, the campus features more than brick buildings and a great football team. Thanks to the 34 on-campus places that serve food and drinks, students can, with a little knowledge, eat something different — maybe delicious — every day. Whether you choose a meal plan, declining balance or decide to take the culinary plunge on your own in those tiny dorm kitchens, knowing your food options can ease the college transition and help you avoid the feared Freshman 15.

The first decision is whether to choose a meal plan, which maps out selected locations and meals, or declining balance, which is like a debit card that can be used anywhere on campus. Neither is mandatory, but some students like the options.

“I would recommend declining balance,” sophomore Eric Hoppeworth said. “[The meal plans] get old pretty fast.”

However, freshmen can look forward to two new meal plans that allow more flexibility, said Jill Rodriguez, the marketing manager at Gator Dining Services.

The five- and seven-day OpenAccess Meal plans let students pick whether they want a full meal or just a snack at any dining hall. The Fresh Food Company at Broward Club gym, is usually quiet because it offers just two restaurants and is farther away from typical on-campus hot spots.

The Racquet Club’s quieter atmosphere is coupled with restaurant-style dining, featuring Chili’s Too and Moe’s Southwest Grill.

“We were the first college campus in the United States to welcome a Moe’s,” Rodriguez said.

A sign in the middle of the dining facility touts that prices are equivalent to — and sometimes cheaper than — eating at the traditional counterparts, both located on Archer Road. Popular Chili’s menu items like baby-back ribs, grilled chicken sandwiches and pitas are anywhere from 30 to 70 cents cheaper, saving not only on menu items but also gas money and the tipping associated with dining in a restaurant.

“Our national brand locations match the street prices you find off campus,” Rodriguez said. However, Chili’s Too offers a very limited menu and won’t satiate customers looking for Chicken Crispers or the Molten Chocolate Cake.

Starbucks is a popular choice for stressed out students looking to fuel study-filled nights with a grande mocha frappuccino. The five on-campus Starbucks — located at the Reitz Union, the Levin College of Law, the Hub, Library West and Shands — guarantee students will get their caffeine fix.

While the Hub may be convenient, its Starbucks is more sluggish than other locations because of its placement in the heart of the campus — the farther from the concentration of classroom buildings, the quicker the service.

For those looking for a meal in a less hectic setting, the Camellia Café offers a peaceful view of the Harry Museum of Art and soups, salads, sandwiches, tapas and desserts guaranteed to please the taste buds — albeit at a cost slightly higher than most on-campus food. The Arredondo Café, located on the fourth floor of the Reitz Union, reopened during Summer A and offers an upscale menu without upscale prices and a panoramic view of campus.

The Reitz Union has the widest selection of food and is a popular place for students living on campus to eat dinner or grab a meal between classes.

The Reitz also features Taco Bell, Starbucks, Pollo Tropical, Subway and Freshies. In addition, students can enjoy Home Zone, which features homestyle comfort food, as well as the Noodle Bar and The Orange & Brew, a campus coffee shop.

On a beautiful fall day when the weather has finally dipped below 90, enjoying Hare Krishna lunch on the Plaza of the Americas is a treat.

Krishna lunch, which is served every day rain or shine, offers vegetarian and vegan Indian-inspired dishes and includes dessert and a drink, all for $4. It’s arguably the best deal on campus, both in taste and price.

Vegetarian offerings helped UF make PETA’s Top 10 Best Vegetarian-Friendly Colleges in the U.S. for the past three years.

In addition to vegetarian, animal-friendly options, UF also focuses on sustainability through its reusable containers.

“Our reusable to-go container program allows us to reduce the 178,000 disposable clamshells used on campus each year,” said Susie Lewis, the sustainability coordinator at Gator Dining Services. “It reduces waste while engaging our customers in a sustainable habit.”

The program, which began in the spring, has about 400 active participants, Lewis said. Students with a meal plan can join the program for free and others can join for a one-time $7 fee. The boxes can be used at campus dining facilities as well as Moe’s and Home Zone.

The express food centers like those featured at Little Hall, Pugh Hall and Beatty Market offer prepackaged samplings of sandwiches, sushi, bottled drinks and more. For convenience, these places are foolproof, but in terms of a bargain, it’s probably best to avoid these places and stock up at the grocery store instead.

On top of dorms, classes, books and that whole independence thing, it may seem hard to keep track of all the food options on campus. But knowing options besides a late-night pizza delivery (hint: call Five Star!) can keep you satisfied for every meal of the day.
UF graduates rank sixth in U.S. for potential salaries

By STEPHANIE LEVENTHAL
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF may be a top party school, but it was ranked sixth in the earning potential of graduates, according to a new survey.

PayScale, a company that collects employee salary data, decided to find out if Princeton Review’s 2009 top 20 party universities prepare students for the competitive job market, according to its Web site.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), No. 16 party university, was placed first on the list. Loyola University New Orleans, No. 20, was ranked last.

According to the survey, the starting median salary for a UF graduate with a four-year degree is $47,300 and the mid-career median salary is $88,400. This is lower than UIUC graduates who have a starting median salary of $53,900 and a mid-career median salary of $99,700.

According to Al Lee, director of quantitative analysis at PayScale, only paid, full-time employees with bachelor’s degrees were taken into consideration for the survey.

The purpose was to offer a sense of earning potential by school during the worst economic climate in the past 80 years, he said.

“It’s an apples and oranges comparison and assumes that you put stock in the party-school ranking.”

Steve Orlando
UF spokesman

UF students are exceptionally smart and the SAT and ACT scores of the incoming freshman support that, he said.

“UF graduates tend to work in Florida, where living is cheaper than in places like Santa Barbara, Calif., he said.

Jose Lobo, an industrial and systems engineer who just finished his master’s degree at UF, said it was senseless to relate the party-school label to median salaries earned.

Salaries are determined in terms of type of job, experience, degrees earned and skills required and not whether the school is a public, private or party school, he said.

Jeff Young, a third-year fitness and wellness major, said he thinks party school graduates are more likely to have outgoing personalities that benefit them in job interviews.

“It’s an apples and oranges comparison and assumes that you put stock in the party-school ranking,” UF spokesman Steve Orlando said.

Information courtesy of PayScale.com

Jessica Warshaver / Alligator

Top Party Colleges By Salary Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Starting Median Salary</th>
<th>Mid-Career Median Salary</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UIUC</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
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<td>Penn State Univ.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Loyola University — New Orleans</td>
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Information courtesy of PayScale.com
By MARK ENKERUD
Alligator Contributing Writer

While they’re not exactly the fantastic fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, UF has its own collection of myths and legends passed on from year to year.

UF law students can blame their study woes on ghosts, since the College of Law is built over the site of an ancient Native American burial ground. Rumor has it that ghosts haunt this area, unable to rest since their burial ground was defiled.

“Well, it is built on an Indian burial ground, there is a big sign out front that says that,” said Steve Orlando, UF spokesman. “I suspect a lot of beleaguered, study-worn law students would say that it is very true.”

Norman Hall, which is home to the College of Education, is said to be haunted by the ghost of a little girl who died in the building in the 1930s. According to university archivist Carl Van Ness, Norman Hall was the original site of P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, a K-12 school.

The residence building Thomas Hall is supposedly haunted by the spirit of Steve, the old cafeteria cook. Before the hall was converted to strictly housing, Thomas Hall had a large cafeteria, which was run by Steve. According to the legend, Steve still walks the halls banging his pots and pans together and can be heard throughout the building.

Van Ness said that there really was an old cook in Thomas Hall named Steve, and when he died, the students wanted to keep his memory alive through this legend. “He was the cook for many years, and after he died, many students suggested that the sounds of the clanging of the radiator pipes was really Steve,” Van Ness said.

Century Tower is another building on campus with a few legends surrounding it. One legend is that there was at one point a pit around the tower that held live alligators. According to Van Ness, this legend is true. Between 1953 and 1970, UF built an alligator pen around Century Tower to hold their live mascots. This is where the very first Albert the Alligator came from.

UF eventually had to stop using live alligator mascots because they were being mistreated. The first Albert was found beaten to death, and Florida State University students kidnapped his replacement, Albert II, as a prank. UF went through several alligators, and all of them died or developed health problems before the idea of a live mascot was scrapped.

A second legend surrounding Century Tower is about its bricks. It is said that any time a virgin graduates from UF, a brick will fall from the top of the tower. As anyone can tell you now, Century Tower still stands tall and sturdy. “It’s still standing and still intact. That’s all I’ll say about that,” said Orlando.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity brothers are doing their part to keep Century Tower standing tall for years to come. In front of the SAE Fraternity house is a lion statue, which is constantly being painted different colors.

According to the legend, whenever an SAE Fraternity member takes a girl’s virginity, the lion will be repainted the color of her panties.

“Some things are better left to other people’s imaginations,” SAE President Andrew Peluso said. “We recently set fire to the lion about a year and a half ago. We had years and years and years of paint on the lion and had to burn it all off.”

Beaty Towers also have their own legend, which states that there once was a girl who committed suicide by jumping off the roof of one of the towers. Later, songwriter and musician Tom Petty, a Gainesville native, supposedly wrote his song “American Girl” based on this legend.

Orlando said that no one has committed suicide by jumping off Beaty Towers. Orlando also said that he has met Petty in person, and Petty told him that the song was not inspired by this rumor.
Local attractions offer escape from campus living

Just because you live on campus doesn’t mean you’re stuck there. Just outside the city limits of Gainesville are small towns and parks that offer tubing, camping, art and diverse menu items.

About 30 minutes north on U.S. 441, located in the town of High Springs, Ginnie Springs offers a getaway that is popular among UF students and Alachua County residents.

For $19.26, visitors can gain admission, rent a tube and float down the 72-degree water, exploring crystal-clear springs and jumping off a tree swing.

Kayaking, camping and scuba diving are also available and prices can be found on the Web site at www.ginniespringsoutdoors.com.

Rose Meadows, general manager of Ginnie Springs Outdoors, said that college students are drawn to the springs because of the wealth of activities and laid back atmosphere.

“The best part of Ginnie Springs is being able to have freedom,” Meadows said. “You can just spend your day out here doing your thing, like canoeing, kayaking, scuba diving, hiking trails, camping or volleyball.”

A long day on the river can bring on an insatiable hunger and thirst. The Great Outdoors Restaurant and Spring House Tavern is conveniently located on Main Street in High Springs about 10 minutes away from Ginnie Springs.

Voted Best New Restaurant by Florida Monthly Magazine, The Great Outdoors is more than just food. On Friday and Saturday nights, live music sets the mood for alfresco dining on a Christmas light lined patio.

Before transforming into a restaurant, the building was constructed in 1895 as an opera house and still holds the romantic atmosphere that was created over a century ago.

Another nature escape located south of Gainesville on SW 13th Street is Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Visitors can follow the prehistoric footsteps of giant ground-sloths, mastodons, mammoths and saber-toothed tigers.

These days, however, visitors are more likely to run into bison, alligators and wild horses.

The park, which is open daily from 8 a.m. until sundown, boasts more than 270 species of birds and holds about 21,000 acres of natural land.

If it is a classic Florida adventure that one craves, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park in Cross Creek offers a look inside the 1930s home and life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist.

“It mixes the outside and the arts,” Gainesville resident Cody Hunter said. “You can tour her house and grounds and learn about her literary impact.”

Located 30 miles Southeast of Gainesville down a winding road, travelers can take in the native North Florida landscape and area wildlife. The park offers a tour of the house, farmyard, grove and a hike around the property. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rawlings’ novel’s namesake, The Yearling Restaurant, is just down the road and serves up Southern cuisine at its finest, including venison, quail, turtle and frog legs. Adding to the flavor and atmosphere, local celebrity and bluesman Willie Green plays his harmonica and guitar.
Students can still party like they’re at the No. 1 — or No. 2 — party school in the nation — as long as they do it legally.

The Underage Prohibition in Alcohol Beverage Establishments Act, which went into effect April 1, prohibits bars and clubs that receive a specific number of underage drinking violations from admitting people under the age of 21 after 9 p.m.

But according to data from the first three months, no bar has exceeded the limit, said Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, who promoted the act in its planning stages.

“We’ve been seeing a lot more enforcement at the door,” she said.

In the spring, the Gainesville Police Department trained bar owners and bouncers how to be stricter, she said.

Some bars ask for two forms of identification, use scanners to validate IDs or use black lights to confirm that IDs are not fake. The methods of verification are up to each bar owner.

But though early data shows bars have been doing a good job, the true test will come this fall, according to Mastrodicasa.

“Fall semester is always hard,” she said.

Matt Goldberger, former external affairs director for Student Government, spoke out against the act last spring, predicting that it would lead to more house parties with unregulated drinking.

He said the bar atmosphere creates a safer environment than house parties because it’s ultimately harder for underage people to drink at bars and that all of the bars are on the Gator bus route.

Goldberger said it’s good the act is working but is worth reviewing after fall.

Mastrodicasa doesn’t predict any more house parties than usual, she said, which could’ve been the case had the city chosen to make all bars only 21 and up, an option avoided in the best interest of students and the city of Gainesville.”

She said she’s aware that people are still going to party in Gainesville, but she said what it comes down to is making an effort.

“I know there are people whose IDs look just like another person, and you’ll hear from friends where it’s easier to drink and where it’s not,” she said.

GPD spokesman Keith Kameg said it’s important to remember that drinking laws haven’t changed, just the way they are enforced.

“If you’re getting into UF, you’re one of the smartest people and you know the drinking laws,” Kameg said.

Underage drinking laws to receive ‘true test’ in fall

Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff
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** In order for current Member to receive a $10 Gift Card, pass user must join as a Collegiate Member, and the current Member must be present at the time of sign-up. Limit 2 $10 Gift Cards per current Member. Associates are not eligible for the $10 Gift Card offer.
By SHAY BRODERICK
Alligator Writer

Alyssa Watson had difficulty finding a job in Gainesville this summer, and she was not alone.

The 21-year-old marketing senior at UF said she definitely noticed the lack of employment available, even though the number of students living in Gainesville for the summer is much lower than during the fall and spring semesters.

Due in large part to the economy, many UF undergraduate students are struggling to find employment.

Watson said she thinks that the lack of jobs is creating difficulties for students who need to pay for classes or rent during the fall term.

“If I’m having this hard of a time finding a job already, I’m really worried about what’s going to happen to me when I graduate college,” Watson said.

This fall, as more than 6,000 baby Gators begin their college careers at UF, the hunt for jobs will become even more competitive.

Nadene Francis, assistant director of public relations for UF’s Career Resource Center, said she has noticed the increasing amount of students who are seeking employment assistance from her office.

Francis said the center has come up with new and innovative ways to accommodate the students seeking assistance, including an updated Web site with tips on searching for a part-time job.

“The potential for interesting and rewarding part-time work is there,” she said. “It just takes time to find it.”

But as Watson enters her senior year of college at UF this fall, she finds herself still unemployed.

“I’ve applied at every restaurant and business I can think of. Waiting for the employers to call me back is the worst part,” Watson said. “I’ve been waiting for the employers to call me back is the worst part.”

As of June, the city of Gainesville’s unemployment rate was 10.3 percent.

This is slightly lower than Florida’s rate of 10.6 percent and just over the national rate of 9.4 percent for the same month, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site.

On Aug. 26, the UF Career Resource Center and Student Financial Affairs will hold a Part-Time Job Fair. The fair will last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union North Lawn. The event will be free for UF students and alumni.

University departments and local employers will attend and recruit students for part-time and seasonal hiring needs.

Students are encouraged to bring their resumes and fall class schedules.

Francis said the number of on-campus jobs is expected to decline this fall, due to departments hiring fewer student workers or even none at all.

She said that at last year’s job fair, more than 1,000 students were in attendance. This year, she expects even more students to attend.

“As long as the weather holds up, we are expecting a good turnout,” she said.

“Financial aid has been limited, so students are looking for ways to not run dry,” Miller said.

Miller said that despite the irritation some students may feel during their job searches, she thinks having a positive attitude is still the best way to impress future employers.

“A smile goes a long way,” she said.
Freshman FAQ
By JESSICA CHAPMAN

What Baby Gators need to know to make the most of their first year

What’s there to do in Alachua County?
Located about 45 minutes outside of Gainesville, the springs are a natural resource with water coming from the underground aquifer. The water stays 72 degrees all year long, offering a refreshing day trip. Overnight camping is also available at most tubing locations.

In Fort White, students can find a cheaper alternative to the above mentioned springs by tubing down the Ichetucknee River. However, plastic bottles, cans, glass and alcohol are not allowed.

Paynes Prairie State Preserve Park offers cycling, walking, equestrian trails, camping, picnicking, wildlife viewing and boat ramp access to Lake Wauburg. The Devil’s Millhopper is a geological state park featuring a 120-feet deep, bowl-shaped cavity leading down to a miniature rain forest. The park is open from Wednesday through Sunday and has been visited since the 1880s.

UF’s Lake Wauburg offers students, faculty and staff activities such as boating, swimming, volleyball, a team development course and a climbing wall. All you need for admission is a Gator 1 Card, which can admit up to four.

Where can I study?
All nine libraries on campus offer quiet sections for studying and many house study rooms. The UF teaching center, in Broward Hall, offers free tutoring in math, reading and writing. Note services such as Smokin’ Notes or Einstein Notes offer exam study materials, and Tutoring Zone holds review sessions for many class exams.

How can I study abroad?
Students can choose from more than 800 programs that range from one week to an entire year. According to International Center Study Abroad Director Susanne Hill, students who are interested in study abroad need to attend an information session offered at the International Center located in the HUB. From the information session, students will meet with advisers to determine which country is best for them.

Where should I buy books?
Here’s a bookstore breakdown:
- Alliston Hall
- The Fresh Market
- Between The Fresh Market & Hollywood Video
- The Florida Bookstore
- Gator Textbooks
- Orange and Blue Textbooks

How does the football ticket lottery work?
If you want to get season football tickets you have to register for the student season football ticket lottery and pre-pay for your tickets. In April students get an e-mail announcing when the lottery opens. Students can pay $70 for season tickets, and in June they receive an e-mail notifying them of the decision. Those who didn’t get tickets will receive a refund.

How does the bus system work on campus?
Campus bus services are free, and most routes run from about 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. City routes are free for students with a Gator 1 Card. Check out the bus stops by your apartment or dorm to see what number bus will take you to campus. Visit www.go-rots.com for a complete bus schedule.

What about drop/add?
For about a week at the beginning of the semester, students can adjust their schedules by adding and dropping classes. If you need a class you couldn’t get earlier, then the drop/add period is the time to try again. Students are able to drop classes throughout the semester until a cut-off date, which is few weeks before finals. Students have only two drops per 60 credits.

Where should I buy books?
Aside from the UF Bookstore, the area around the campus is full of other options for new and used textbooks, most of which are in walking distance from the campus. Be sure to check out The Florida Bookstore, Gator Textbooks and Orange and Blue Textbooks.

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Ready to Change the World?
Yeah... We know the feeling.

It doesn’t matter if you’re a first year freshman or a fifth year grad student. There will come a point where college life is no longer just about you and school. Where will you turn when you decide it’s time to live for something more? To make a difference in the world around you? Well, we invite you to join us at Gator Wesley and see if you find an authentic Christian community filled with students just like you who share that same desire.

Gator Wesley is the United Methodist Campus Ministry for the University of Florida.
No matter your vice, it’s not hard to find your fix in Gainesville. From beer to boobs, the city is home to plenty of stores that will entertain your wild side.

Getting it on for more than 20 years, French Addiction is an adult toy store and lingerie shop that sells costumes, movies and sex toys for both men and women. Although some might have reservations about entering the pink building at 819 W. University Ave., employee Nichole Crosby said there’s no need to be shy.

“We make it a point to make the atmosphere comfortable,” Crosby said. “I mean screw it, everyone deserves to feel good.”

Along with apparel and other goodies, French Addiction also offers talent scheduling for bachelorette parties and pole-dancing lessons that take place in the store. It’s $25 for an introductory class and $15 for each additional class, Crosby said.

“It’s great exercise,” she said.

Not too far from the naughty adult paradise is a place where people can buy something for their bodies that is a little more permanent.

Anthem Tattoo Parlor has been in business for three years and is owned and operated by longtime friends Rob Barnes, 35, Dave Kotsinsley, 33, and Mike Mehaffey, 32. The owners, forearms coated with art, said they make a conscious effort to keep the mood laid back and friendly.

Although the artists tattoo in all shapes, sizes and colors, clients won’t see “flash-racks” in the parlor.

Flash-racks, Mehaffey explained, are stock collections of art that are created beforehand and ready to go — the tattoo equivalent to fast food.

“We draw up everything for every client,” Mehaffey said, adding that the store primarily caters to serious collectors.

The partners have all had lifelong love affairs with the art of tattooing.

On the store Web site, anthemtattoo.com, Barnes recalls his grandfather’s tattoo from World War II and Kotsinsley reminisces about learning to tattoo using sewing needles. While there are four full-time artists, a fifth spot is left vacant for traveling guest artists to fill.

For those who prefer art on the wall, Modern Age Tobacco and Gift Shop at 1122 W. University Ave. might be more appealing.

Lining the inside of the shop are vintage Alberto Vargas pinups. The store also boasts about 500 varieties of fine cigars along with rows of blown-glass pipes and ornamented hookahs.

Gator Beverage, left, is one store where students go to grab alcoholic beverages like Pabst Blue Ribbon. French Addiction, right, sells lingerie, adult toys and videos.

For Modern Age employees, smoking is more than just a business or hobby.

“It’s like a tradition,” said 25-year-old employee Jonathan Watkins. “It’s nice to sit down with friends and family and have a smoke.”

Although they say they are extremely passionate about smoking, Patton and his coworkers will tell you that is not the only thing they offer.

In a separate room at the back of the shop, those interested can browse adult film titles as well.

“You don’t have to be a smoker to come in here,” Patton said. “We get students, doctors, lawyers. We get everybody.”

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Membership is open to all UF students, staff and alumni

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E. Campus 1200 SW 5th Ave. (behind Norman Hall)  /  W. Campus 1900 SW 34th St. (across from the Harn Museum)

Shands at UF Room H-1
Alternative sports offer fun, novel fitness opportunities

ALEX ORLANDO
avenue writer

Whether it's at night, on the weekend, between classes or just a lazy afternoon, Gainesville has plenty to offer without having to stray into the ordinary. From scaling walls to blazing trails, here are a few ways to break a sweat without having to hit the treadmill.

**Mountain biking**

Discover the beauty of your hometown as you shoot down trails you may have never seen before. With more than 20 cyclists on most rides, it's a great way to get to know fellow riders and work those thighs. Make sure you bring your helmet, a water bottle and a can-do attitude. Groups ride out from Mr. Goodbike, 421 NW 13th St., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Rock Climbing**

Gainesville Rock Gym, 704 S Main St.

The gym offers more than 85,000 square feet of wall to challenge you. With various levels of difficulty, you're sure to find your niche. Not claustrophobic? Try climbing the cave and tunnel system. You'll feel like you're miles away from flat-terrained Florida.

"It's an awesome upper body workout," said Rock Gym employee Christopher Harabaglia.

**Roller Derby**

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's roller derby league, is far from your typical day at the skating rink. With bumps and spills all along the track, it's amusing for both skaters and spectators. If you can handle rough play, this sport will give you a great leg workout and help you let out your aggressions.

"It's not soccer, it's not softball, it's different. There's a huge sisterhood aspect," said league founder Catherine "Ms. Rebel" Steemann.

The Gainesville Roller Rebels will hold its next recruiting event Oct. 21 from 8 to 10 p.m., at Skate Station Funworks, 1311 NW 76th Blvd.

**Bike Polo**

Bike polo is like soccer, but on bikes. Fine tune your balance and stamina skills while gaining friends and maybe a few grass stains. Find out about future matches at Bikepolo.blogspot.com

"It's just a good sport you can get together with your friends and do," said bike polo player Duncan Neiderlitz.

**Japanese sword lessons**

Iaido, the art of Japanese sword lessons and traditional exercises, provides insight into historic Japanese culture and the samurai code. Although not as physically demanding as more high-intensity forms of martial arts, you should still be prepared for a good strength-training session. Classes are held in Gainesville at the Unified Training Center, 809 W University Ave., Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., and cost $10 a session.

**Capture the flag**

Channel your inner child by revisiting this playground favorite. In Gainesville, a group meets Tuesdays at midnight to play. Follow the group on Facebook — search for "Gainesville Capture the Flag." The events offer an opportunity for meeting new friends and good, clean horsing around fun. All the running is sure to provide a good cardio workout.

**Pole dancing**

Pole dancing lessons are a great way for women to explore their sexual side. It's a decent workout, and your boyfriend will definitely be interested to see what you learned in class. Classes are held most days of the week at French Addiction, 819 W University Ave. The classes cost $60 for a four-week package.

"It creates a self discovery that women really enjoy," said French Addiction owner Mary Jane Brunel.
34th Street mural serves as local landmark, memorial

SISTINE GURREY
avenue writer

One day, the wall reads, “Two geese cannot achieve happiness alone.” It wishes Manda Kate a happy 16th birthday. It thanks a wife for her hard work.

The next day, it might resurrect Bob Marley, welcome back a friend or say nothing at all.

In a place where time is represented by the thickness of the paint on the wall, the 34th Street mural freezes in time a moment in students’ lives.

For years, the wall has been a place for self-expression by UF, and Santa Fe College students, and Gainesville residents; however, if you’re new in town, you might not yet know about this timeless post.

“A lot of freshmen don’t know about a lot of things,” said John Parady, a Gainesville native and UF student. “The population is always changing and growing. The wall has faded from importance and from people’s minds.”

Usery can remember the memorial ever since he moved in to the apartments across the street from the wall at the age of three. However, he always found it difficult to identify with it.

“If I see it, and I respect it for what it is,” he said. “That is as far as it goes for me. I wasn’t born when it happened.”

The wall was built in 1979 when the Florida Department of Transportation expanded the street from two lanes to four. However, the department didn’t realize it created an icon for the city, where locals, students and artists would express themselves with colors and words on any of the 45 panels, each about 20 feet long.

The panel at the crest of the arching wall takes you back in time. It has not changed in almost 19 years.

On Sept. 3, 1990, two men with a plan and $11.25 used their grocery money to buy paintbrushes, rollers and the cheapest paint they could find.

They forced their Honda Spree up a hill on 34th Street until they reached the crest of a 1,120-foot-long wall that borders the Mark Bassick Golf Course. That night, they painted a message on the concrete wall dedicated to the memory of the five students who were murdered by Danny Rolling in August 1990. It read, “We Remember” in bold, white letters on a black background, followed by the names of the victims: Sonja Larson, Christina Powell, Christa Leigh Hoyt, Tracy Paules and Manuel Taboada.

The following day, Paul Chase and Adam Tritt’s discount mural became a shrine to the students.

“We figured we’d give the city a central memorial,” said Tritt, who owns a medical practice in Palm Bay.

Weeks and months passed. Birthdays wishes Manda Kate a happy 16th birthday. “It’s a college town,” said Erich Usery, a Gainesville native and UF student. “I see it, and I respect it for what it is,” he said. “That is as far as it goes for me. I wasn’t born when it happened.”

The wall is not just a tradition. It is a memorial to the living and the dead of those hidden traditions at UF that political science. “I think the wall is one time a moment in students’ lives.

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Don’t ruin college for yourself, silence your cell phone

ERIK VOS
avenue writer

When I was in high school, I was convinced I had the noisiest, most intrusive parents.

“For the last time, I’m not going to any college!”

I used to shout at them. “My 600-pound lover and I are eloping in Vegas after I graduate.”

I was so blind. Upon arriving at college, I was shocked to discover that many students’ parents call or text-message them more than five times daily. I was always under the impression parents bought their teenagers cell phones as a ceremonial gesture, marking the passage into adulthood. Their generation received the keys to old, dying Volkswagens; ours receives iPhones and rollover minutes.

Little did I know that some parents use cell phones like leashes, extending their jurisdiction from cul-de-sac to campus.

“She’s just a kid, mom,” my friend will say, digging through her purse. My epic tale of a juicy Facebook chat conversation from the night before.

“I once proposed that her mother leave a voice-mail,” my friend will say, holding a phone up to his mouth, soberly assuring his mother that he wasn’t born when it happened.

Almost two decades after the mural was built, I was always under the impression parents bought their teenagers cell phones as a ceremonial gesture, marking the passage into adulthood. Their generation received the keys to old, dying Volkswagens; ours receives iPhones and rollover minutes.

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Local music

SISTINE GURREY

venue writer

Local bands impress at shows, makes waves nationally

If you want to see a good indie band, Morningbell is it. They’ve already come out with three albums, and a fourth one is set for release Sept. 4. They’ve been recognized by MTV, The Washington Post and Blender Magazine. The Onion describes them perfectly: “The Pink Floyd-ish harmonic dreaminess, Carribean-styled spacey experimentation, and swiftly moving country-twang foot- tappers make for a record that’s fine as an eclectic indie-rock mishmash.”

The Shoddy Beatles

Genre: Beatles cover band

This band has a knack for accuracy when it comes to playing some of the greatest songs of the century. They play every Beatles song exactly note-for-note as the Fab Four did back in the day. Vocally, they sound the same too. If you were to close your eyes at their concert, you’d think you were actually at a Beatles concert. They are definitely a group worth seeing, even though they don’t play that often.

Morningbell

Genre: Indie Psychedelic Rock

From left: James Patrick, Mike Gray, Tyler Cole and Zane Beselský of Dear Dakota, a popular, local pop/rock band. Dear Dakota will play at 1982 Bar on Aug. 25.

MEAGAN MCGONE

venue writer

Live it up, stay on budget

College has a way of dwindling your bank account faster than you can chug a lukewarm can of Natty Light.

After tuition, books, rent and bar tabs deduct themselves from your free student checking account, it is only a matter of time before you’re contemplating selling your plasma and living off Easy Mac.

Before you do, take a look at some of the tricks that allow even the stingiest of college students to eat great, dress trendy and have fun without breaking the bank.

College nights are a great way to save money, and a lot of bars will offer drink specials of $1.25, $1.50 or even $1.

My college night of choice is Blockbuster Wednesday at Cowboys. Any drink in the $1.25 and $1.50 price range is just $1 on Wednesdays. So if you get a little too rowdy on the dance floor, you can always run back outside to relieve yourself before making your way back to the bar and getting another dollar drink.

If you’re more of a homebody, Blockbuster offers a great deal called “Wacky Wednesdays” at all its Gainesville locations. Rent any three movies, including new releases and Blu-ray, for $5.55 on Wednesdays only. This is definitely a deal for stay-at-home savers. The Florida Museum of Natural History offers a “Museum Nights” special for students on select Thursday nights, allowing you free admission to participate in demonstrations and hands-on activities at the museum.

For social butterflies, fraternity barbecues and concerts at Flavet Field are money-saving gems. They are fun, great for meeting people, and best of all, free.

If you find yourself bored, hungry and considering dipping into your rent money to go out on Saturday night, try cutting corners instead.

After all, the best things in life are (almost) free.
Practice sensibility when engaging in collegiate romps

BRANDT WILLIAMS
avenue writer

Freshman year. You are en route to the fourth floor of your dorm and notice an attractive neighbor. Any homesickness unexpectedly fades. You realize that your roommate has been MIA for the past few hours and your twin-sized bed is in dire need of christening.

But hold on — don’t be so easy.

Of all the courses you will take in college, this is about to be the most honest. Welcome to your freshman crash-course on college sex.

I have a lot to impart and since word count is restricted, let’s dive in with the first rule you need to know: College is every bit the exceedingly debauched sex romp you expect, so enjoy it.

It’s in your best interest to stay single, at least during freshman year. And that long-distance relationship you’re in? It has the shelf life of a condom left out in the August heat.

Now guys, it’s a fact that girls will be able to pull more ass than you.

Don’t blame the messenger; blame the frat parties or girls-drink-free Wednesday nights at Xs. However, pulling ass will be made easier if you invest in your personal appearance.

And this includes trimming the hair down there — after all, Busch Gardens is in Tampa. Let’s keep it that way.

Another complaint I’ve often heard from women is that men don’t know how to use their hands or mouth.

This is college, if you need to, take a (sex) course to learn the finer aspects of female anatomy.

And since this is college, remember you are privileged to a staggering lack of privacy and your roommate won’t appreciate any ear piercing mating calls.

Luckily, there are plenty of other locations to play out mischievous antics — don’t overlook the 50-yard line at the stadium or dorm showers.

Ladies, one place where you should avoid getting intimate is a fraternity house. Fraternities are synonymous with “walk of shame,” and men are surprisingly capable of gossip.

So are nightlife promoters — sure they’re able to slip you into clubs with your fake ID, but that’s not the only thing they want to slip in.

Worse are upper-classmen who deceitfully whisper, “Wow, you’re so mature, I can’t believe you’re only 18…”

In truth, Carrie Bradshaw knew best when she began having sex like a man.

Unfortunately, many freshman girls don’t understand this concept or realize the majority of college men aren’t looking for a relationship. Though you may sense the hint of an emotional connection, men tend to view that as a footnote to sex — so don’t be surprised if they’re not calling back after you give it up.

Also, watch your drink, especially during undisciplined nights of tequila-infused body shots.

In four years, I’ve had more than eight friends who had something slipped in their drinks and it didn’t always end well (this includes you too, guys).

And should you pick up a cute colleague at the bar?

Congratulations, use a condom.

As I understand it — while not every razor burn bump is an STD and a delayed period doesn’t necessarily mean you’re the next Octorom — gonorrhea is still a college experience you don’t want, and HIV is not solely “a gay disease.”

STD concerns aside, sex is a healthy and integral part of your personal identity. And there is no better time to explore that identity than these four years.

Whether you’re singing and milling, coying up to the idea of a monogamous relationship, letting your unabashed bi-curiosity come out, or grade inflating by seducing an attractive professor (which is harder than you would think), the university is your oyster and you’ve got more than enough things to see and people to do.
**The Swamp Restaurant**

The Swamp Restaurant is a casual dining option that offers a variety of options for vegetarians and carnivores alike. The restaurant features a large menu with options for every taste, including a selection of vegetarian dishes. The restaurant is known for its friendly service and affordable prices, making it a popular choice among locals and tourists alike.

**Fish Market**

The Fish Market is a seafood restaurant that offers a variety of fresh seafood options, including fresh fish, shrimp, and crab. The restaurant is known for its fresh, high-quality seafood and friendly service. The menu includes a variety of options, including seafood platters, sandwiches, and salads.

**Cafe Gardens**

Cafe Gardens is a unique cafe located in downtown Gainesville. The coffee shop serves a variety of drinks, including coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. The cafe is known for its comfortable atmosphere and friendly staff. The menu includes a variety of options, including sandwiches, pastries, and salads.

**The Melting Pot**

The Melting Pot is a fondue restaurant that offers a variety of options for vegetarians and carnivores alike. The restaurant features a large menu with options for every taste, including a selection of vegetarian dishes. The restaurant is known for its friendly service and affordable prices, making it a popular choice among locals and tourists alike.

**Manuel's Classic Coffee**

Manuel's Classic Coffee is a coffee shop that offers a variety of options for vegetarians and carnivores alike. The restaurant features a large menu with options for every taste, including a selection of vegetarian dishes. The restaurant is known for its friendly service and affordable prices, making it a popular choice among locals and tourists alike.

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**Golden Buddha**

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Learn the ropes to campus style

**REBEKAH GEIER**
*avenue writer*

It is not often that college and fashion are associated with one another. But there will be situations that require some stylish threads.

I’m not going to slap you a list of what not to wear – that’s for you to soon figure out. But what I can do is give you a heads up on how to deal with some unpredictable situations you will encounter on campus so that you can be prepared for whatever comes your way.

**Win Over the Weather**

Even if you religiously check the weather app on your iPhone, you’ll still never know what Gainesville’s weather pattern is going to bring. Combine that with the reality that you are going to be walking from the sweltering heat into an overly air-conditioned classroom, and you will have to dress accordingly. I suggest wearing layers, like tank tops and thin cardigans – things you can either peel off or pile on. Wrap a summer scarf around your neck while commuting, and then drape it around your shoulders as a shawl to keep warm in class.

**Free Tees**

Local businesses cater to the fact that college students love free anything. You will soon notice a trend on campus of shirts advertising everything from apartment complexes to organizations. Some of them are so common and eye-catching you’ll start to wonder how you missed out. You just have to know where they are! You can join Student Alumni Association for $20 and you will reap the benefit of free BEAT T-shirts for all home football games. Also, be aware of the tables set up in the Reitz Union Colonnade. There, dozens of realtors and clubs set up displays to attract future residents or members. So all the students wearing the Estates T-shirt that reads “I Know You Want This” – none of those kids live there.

**Sleep Pretty**

You may be used to sleeping in either worn in T-shirts or nothing at all. But living in a town where most of your friends are within a five-mile radius, you’re going to have to start caring about how you look at all hours of the day, and that includes 4 a.m. You never know who is going to come knocking on your door after a late night, or when your dreams will be disturbed by an unexpected fire drill.

**Rules With the Roomies**

You and your roommates are going to be sharing a lot of things, but clothing does not have to be one of them. It may sound like a good idea to extend your closet to their side of the room, but unless you are both on the same page about borrowing, it’s a recipe for drama. When it comes to sharing clothing, karma doesn’t necessarily apply.

You can deal with this one of two ways. Either lay down the rules, or learn to let go. Lending out my favorite dress shirt may have tugged on my heart strings for a split second, but the unease went away and that shirt was always back on my hanger within a day. And for those few times when my borrowed silk dress drank some beer, or my white sandals swept the floor of a fraternity house, I realized it was much easier to laugh about.

And I cannot lie, it doesn’t hurt knowing that it’s my dress she’s wearing in her new Facebook picture.
If you are: A hipster
Go to: The Top
It’s another night of you and The Smiths, sad.
It’s the hippiest commune you always wanted to be a part of but never could because you secretly like bathing. Where else in Gainesville can you eat in a van? No really, one of their tables is in a van. No credit cards here friend. The tips are pooled and all the aging hipster waitresses wear on everybody, communal style. You also will never get two plates with the same design at one table, and that speaks to your hard-won individuality. After your meal get some chocolate cake. Then you go next door to Lightnin Salvage, a store full of useless knick-knacks sure to entertain you for at least eight minutes. You know you want that dashboard Jesus.

If you are: An aging hipster
Go to: Satchel’s
Satchel’s is heaven to you. It’s like the hippie commune you always wanted to be a part of but never could because you secretly like bathing. Where else in Gainesville can you eat in a van? No really, one of their tables is in a van. No credit cards here friend. The tips are pooled and all the aging hipster waitresses wear on everybody, communal style. You also will never get two plates with the same design at one table, and that speaks to your hard-won individuality. After your meal get some chocolate cake. Then you go next door to Lightnin Salvage, a store full of useless knick-knacks sure to entertain you for at least eight minutes. You know you want that dashboard Jesus.

If you are: In a fraternity
Go to: El Indio
You are not one of the lucky ones. Daddy doesn’t pay your rent. Or maybe he does, but that’s all he pays. You are forced to buy your own food and yes, you could go grocery shopping but that would mean cooking and cleaning, so God no. Your solution is easy friend. El Indio offers fine Mexican cuisine in a semi-clean outdoor environment. And the price is right. You can get tacos for two bucks.

If you are: Environmentally conscious
Go to: Buddha Belly
You are a tree-loving environmentalist. You talk about “making a difference” and “voting with your feet.” You drink canned wine and aged cheese because you use your sophisticated palate demands it. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours. You show documentaries at your house about climate issues and talk for hours.

If you are: A freshman
Go to: Applebee’s
You are away from home for the first time in your life. You want to go someplace that mom used to take you on your weekend visits. You have no idea where anything is and anytime you venture more than a mile from your place you spend three hours trying to find your way back. Applebee’s is your shining beacon of familiarity in the sea of uncertainty that is your life. You get the something Rollup or another and use Mapquest on your iPhone to slowly find your dorm. Welcome to Gainesville.

If you are: Poor
Go to: El Indio
You just had a wild night downtown, and you’re wasted. You lost all your friends but you stumbled into a corner store with bright inviting lights and the sweet smell of Cuban coffee. You close one eye to see straight and order the godfather and a huge coffee. You play some old-school arcade games while you wait for your food and before you know it you’re sober enough to text your friends, who have actually been in the place the whole time — you were just drunk to notice. On the way out, grab a guava pastry and feel like the night has just begun.

This information was provided with help from Gainesville residents to maximize your dining experiences and get the most out of your special town. Tom Miller, Gainesville’s own Andy Warhol, would like to leave you with one final piece of advice: If you like sushi, go to Japan. No really, go to Japan.


FOR RENT: Furnished 3/3 TH!! Roommate match avail. All Inclusive & Furnished. Located near Archer Road. 2 blocks from UF. Fully furnished, w/ parking. $750/mo. Call 352-200-7737.

For Rent unfurnished

WATER/Sewer incl * Pets OK
1 & 2 BEDROOMS - GREAT DEAL!
1 BR ONLY $497!
2 BR ONLY $561!
1 and 2 bedrooms, Great location! Pets welcome!
1-2-3 bedroom, all utilities inc.$997-$1297!
2 BR with all incl. 500 ft from UF.
1 & 2 bedroom: great deal!
1 BR ONLY $497!
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Deluxe, Large 3, 4, 5, 6, 8BR apartment, 500 ft from UF. Remodeled, Old House charm. Central AC, washer/dryer included. Wood floors.
With Parking. By Private Owner. 352-538-2181

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LOTS OF SPACE! AUGUST FREE!
3 BR 2 BA w/ living, family & dining rooms, 2 car garage, fenced yard, w/d, lawn svc, $1268/m rent, 126 SW 40th St.
Carl Turlington Real Estate, Inc. 372-6425
www.TurlingtonRealEstate.com
8-17-9

LIVE BY THE GOLF COURSE! August free!
3 BR 2 BA TH, garage, vaulted ceilings, living & family rooms, large bedrooms, balcony, lots of storage space, Archer Rd, 5 min to UF by bus (RTS 12, 13, 14). For more info call 954-821-4482.
8-17-9-8-2

2/2 Condo Rent $890. Spacious, bright 1226 sqft. 2nd floor, 2 BR, 1 BA, wood laminate floors, balcony, large bedrooms. Close to UF & downtown.
8-20-9-8-2

2/1.5 twnhs 0.5 mi to UF/butler plaza on bus line. $600/m down, $1200/m monthly. 786-797-9783
8-28-10-2

1 BRF EFFICIENCY $375/MO
No pets. Year lease. Shady lot. 1022 NW 3rd Av. 352-597-1500 8-24-9-7-9

6 blks to UF 621 NW 15th St. $775/2BD. Three bedroom house. Great storage & guest spaces. All appliances, W/D, DW, CH/AC. 500 sqft, screened porch, new carpet, new tile. Off 20th Ave. $1300/month. 786-1950 8-25-9-9-8

GRANTWOOD Townhouse, loft, wood laminate floors, CNH/AC, W/D, DW, parking & guest space. Great location right across from UF. $450/mo.
8-25-9-9-7

2 Blocks from Stadium 2 BRBA Home Plus Study. Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA
8-31-10-2

CUTE 3 BR HOUSE! First TWO MONTHS FREE* + $100 Gift Cert
2 bd 1 1/2 bath, wood floors, tiled, AC/Heat. 3627 SW 15th St. $1300/3-5-9-9-9-7

1 BRF EFFICIENCY $375/MO
No pets. Year lease. Shady lot. 1022 NW 3rd Av. 352-597-1500 8-24-9-7-9

EXECUTIVE APT 2 blocks north of UF. 2 BR/2 BA Townhouse, dishwasher, pool, courtyard, $950/rent, lawn svc, pets considered. Rent $895/mo.
8-15-9-9-7

Available Now! 332-8481 8-17-9-9-6-2

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Immaculate 2/2 condo Townhouse overlooking pool from screened in porch. All bedrooms have bath en suite. Common Living area, washer, dryer inside unit. $1000 352-665-9838 Robert Sawicki 8-28-10-2

For Rent

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NEXT TO UF CAMPUS

1BR/1BA, W/D in unit. Pets ok with deposit. $370/mo 388-5801 8-24-09-6-2

HOMES/CONDOS

2 houses, 2/1 fenced NW & SW. Move in today. $800-$850 352-374-4216 8-24-09-6-2

3 bed / 1 bath house $850/mo Available for rent immediately. Big yard 1st month rent $50 security. Wash/Dry, large screened porch, car AC. 1006 NE 22nd Ave. Ask about pets. Call 352-327-2246 8-24-09-4-2

TALGATE WALK TO SWAMP!

3/2 + SUNROOM BR, 2-CAR GARAGE, COVERED PATIO, LRG FENCED YARD, PETS OK, $1400 1ST MO. FREE. AVAIL. 8BT, 5 NW 28TH TRC. 352-725-0119 8-24-09-4-2

GET A FREE BEACH VACATION!

Lady Slipper 2 BR Townhome: Close to UF & On 2 Bus Routes Open House Everyday 359-6838 8-24-09-4-2

9-4-09-13-2

Very quiet and private. (352) 337-2723

Large living space, kitchen & bath. Studio apartment $450 including utils. 8-25-09-5-2


BIKE TO CAMPUS!

Studio apartment $450 including utils. Large/live space, kitchen & bath. Very quiet and private. (352) 337-2723 8-24-09-4-2

2 BR 1 APT BLK TO UF Grad Apt Special! $700/mo 1236 SW 4th Ave. Call Merritt Management Inc 352-372-1494 x 10 8-10-9-3-2

2 BR 1 BA Home with Carpet, Windows, Floor A/C. $900/mo 2210 SW 70th Terrace New carpet, paint, Central H & Air. Laundry Hookups. Merritt Management Inc. 352-372-1494 8-17-9-3-2

TOWER OAKS

2BR 1BA Duplex $600/mo 2210 SW 70th Terrace Large Yard, Quiet Neighborhood. Call 352-372-1494 8-17-9-3-2

2/1 $600/mo, Sheds and carport. Near Noonan’s Lake. 653 SE 73rd Terr. 352-262-9261 8-17-9-3-2

Single family 3/2 home in Gville. Fireplace, screened patio, living room with vaulted ceiling, two car garage w/ work bench. Taurus North Woods. $895/mth 377-0878 8-26-9-9-2

Looking for a place to live before school starts? Homes available for immediate occupancy Low payments. Call for details. 352-378-4411 8-17-9-9-2

Historic 3 1/2 House for Rent. Walk to downtown, behind Melting Pot. CH Air, New carpet & paint. Front porch, fenced back yard. $900/mo, 1st, last $250 Dep $375/mo or $500/mo for all utilities. George 466-1065 8-31-9-9-2

1BR/1BA available now. Near Shands. Large screened-in porch. W/D hook-ups. Pets ok. Call 352-372-3473, please leave message. 8-24-09-3-2

1BR/1 BA Duplex $600/mo Close to UF. 352-372-1494 8-17-9-3-2

Custom newly upgraded 2 BRM 1 BA Porcelain tile in LR Kit Hall Bath Carpeted. BDRMS w ceiling fans Like new stainless appl in Kit New tub vanity lighting Large sun room. $650/mo W/D Avail/Cable/Internet 1 1/2 mi to UF Shands Butler PI No pets $725/mo 727-423-9463 8-17-9-2-2

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Emmanuel Moody still thinks he can make a big impact for the Gators.

If he does, it will be a long time coming.

Moody transferred to UF from USC after his freshman season, which ended early due to an ankle injury, the first of his career.

“It’s one of those deals where I never thought I would be that guy because I’ve never had any injuries all through high school, never had it until later my freshman year,” Moody said. “It’s just unfortunate. It has been unfortunate.”

The injury with the Trojans may have been his first, but it certainly wasn’t his last.

Moody has battled a series of ankle injuries and a broken hand since moving to Gainesville, and he started off fall practice on the stationary bike rather than on the field.

Though he is still not 100 percent, he has started practicing in a more limited role and is trying to remain upbeat about his chances of contributing this fall.

“There’s times where I can come in (the training room) every day like, ‘What the heck am I doing in here?’” Moody said. “But it’s not going to do me any good. I’ve got to keep a positive attitude and just keep going.

“I’ve been doing this for 15 years now and this is all I know what to do is just keep going when I face adversity.”

The latest bit of adversity came a week before practice was set to begin when an impromptu workout with Aaron Hernandez got overly competitive. Moody was playing one-on-one defense on the big tight end with freshman Jordan Reed throwing passes.

Reed threw a high ball and Moody jumped to make the play before coming down on Hernandez’s ankle.

Last season, the 6-foot, 210-pound running back rushed for 417 yards on 58 carries — 116 of those yards coming in a blowout win against The Citadel — in between injuries that either kept him from playing altogether, or pushed him further back on the depth chart as he was unable to practice.

Circumstances have worn on Moody so badly that he admitted to having thoughts about quitting, though he never seriously considered following through on them.

“It’s one of those deals where I never thought I would be that guy because I’ve never had any injuries all through high school, never had it until later my freshman year. It’s just unfortunate. It has been unfortunate.”

Emmanuel Moody
UF senior running back

“IT’s definitely making me more mentally tough because there’s times where it does cross my mind — is football for me sometimes? Does God want me to continue football?” Moody said. “We all have times where — I’m sure you guys had times in your lives where — you know, you have thoughts, of course.”

Despite his seemingly endless string of injuries — coach Urban Meyer has called him an “injury magnet” — running backs coach Kenny Carter maintains that there is a place for the tailback whenever he gets healthy.

“It doesn’t concern me. It is what it is. It happens every time and you just go with it,” Carter said. “When he’s ready to go, we’ll play him. When he’s not ready to go, that’s why you recruit.”
VOLLEYBALL FAN DAY

The UF volleyball team will be available to sign autographs in the O'Connell Center at 1-2 p.m. on Aug. 23. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and the Orange & Blue Scrimmage will start around 2 p.m.

PHOTO

POLL QUESTION

Today’s question: What should be the football team’s goal?

Previous question: What will be the closest margin of a UF football game this year? (see right for results)

QUOTABLE

“Phil said, ‘Coach, we were in the wrong defense! We can’t run that defense against that person’. Strong said, ‘I never thought you would know that. I’m glad you did.’”

— Phil Kegler

Jobs not safe on D-line

It’s hard to argue UF’s defense — which coach Urban Meyer said has a chance to go down as one of the best ever — has a weak link, but the one unit that seems to offer up the most questions is the line.

Perhaps that says more about the secondary and linebackers, but the tackle position is the most competitive battle for a starting spot on the defense.

Juniors Lawrence Marsh and Terron Sanders stepped into starting roles last year and are the favorites to hold their positions, but if they falter, freshmans Omar Hunter and sophomore Jaye Howard have impressed the coaching staff in practice.

“If they don’t go out and practice well, and they don’t play well, then they’re not going to play at all,” defensive coordinator Charlie Strong said of the position battle.

Sanders said he feels good about where he stands in the pecking order, but admitted the competition for playing time is fierce.

“I really feel as though only certain spots on the team are cemented, especially on the defensive front,” Sanders said. “Every day is a competition, and every day is a challenge, and every day could make or break your chances of starting or getting the bulk of the playing time.”

The end positions are more solidified, as senior Jermaine Cunningham and junior Carlos Dunlap have two years as starters under their belts.

Strong told an anecdote at UF’s Media Day illustrating the type of understanding that can come only with ample experience.

In the national championship game, Oklahoma faced third and 2 with the ball on the hash mark closest to its own bench. The Sooners subbed in bigger personnel to try to pick up the first down, and Strong was unable to counter with subs of his own for fear of having too many men on the field or burning a timeout.

Linebacker Ryan Stamper stuffed up the play for a loss, but when Dunlap came off the field, he had something to say to Strong.

“He said, ‘Coach, we were in the wrong defense! We can’t run that defense against that personnel grouping.’” Strong said. “I said, ‘I never thought you would know that. I’m glad you did.’”

Junior Justin Trattou will be pushing for playing time on the outside, and a high football IQ could end up being the difference the coaches are looking for.

Defensive line coach Dan McCarney said the talent is there for the taking.

SEE D-LINE, PAGE 46

Freshmen: Follow these guidelines to ensure the best UF sports experience

I really feel bad for all you freshmen.

You’re never going to enjoy the cheap, fattening, how-can-it-take-this-long-to-take-a-hamburger-order experience that was Wendy’s inside the Reitz Union.

The old faithful institution — I swear it was open more hours in a day than most people are awake — is no longer with us. It is being replaced by Cheeburger Cheeburger, which I hear is a little more expensive with a little more quality.

Still, the UF class of 2013 never gets to eat at Wendy’s in the Reitz. There’s just something weird about that — I feel like you’re missing out on something.

Here are three tips to make sure you don’t have similar regrets when it comes to your UF athletics experience.

First of all, do yourself a favor and know what’s going on with the Gators. At the absolute, scrape-the-bottom-of-the-barrel minimum that means the football team (and more than, “Oh yeah, there’s that Tebow dude.”). Consider upping yourself to decent casual fan status and learn about the men’s basketball team.

But really, you should indulge yourself and learn something about some of the smaller sports. I know I’m one of the biggest champions of the worthiness of smaller sports — i.e. you’re rarely, if ever, watching this sport on ESPN or ESPN2 — but there is something to be said for the fact that 18 UF sports made it into their NCAA Tournaments.

(Let me quickly plug our graphic on page 44. It’s an excellent primer to catch you up on all the sports that will compete during the fall.)

Second, go to the home football games. This sounds obvious enough, right? Yet you will know people who willingly choose not to go each week. (I apologize in advance for the terrible students who only got student tickets to sell them to the highest bidder each week. Dante has a special circle in hell for these pseudo-ticket brokers.)

SEE PHIL, PAGE 46

Spikes sets standard at LB

By MIKE McCALL
Alligator Staff Writer
mmccall@alligator.org

It’s up to Brandon Spikes to keep the UF linebacker tradition alive and kicking.

Amid his goals of winning a third national title and preparing for an NFL career, Spikes will have to do as his predecessors and groom replacements.

During Spikes’ freshman year, starter Brandon Siler took him under his wing and showed him what it took to be a successful middle linebacker. The importance of having Siler — now with the San Diego Chargers — as a tutor isn’t lost on Spikes.

“Without Brandon Siler, I don’t think I would’ve become the player I’ve become,” he said.

Now, it’s time for Spikes to pass that along to freshmen Jelani Jenkins and Jon Bostic, both of whom say they’re more concerned with learning from Spikes this season than trying to take anyone’s starting job.

Bostic figures to play the same role Spikes did as a freshman. The 6-foot-1, 235-pounder from Wellington Palm Beach Central High has earned plenty of praise during the offseason that should translate into playing time.

“I come out every day to get better, but I’m also there to learn,” Bostic said. “I’m learning behind one of the best linebackers in the country, and I’m trying to watch what he does and do the same things he does.”

Spikes’ decision to return for his senior season makes the linebacker position loaded with experience. Spikes, A.J. Jones, Dustin Doe, Ryan Stamper and Brandon Hicks were all reliable last year, though Doe is in hot water following a July arrest for driving with a suspended license.

Doe was suspended from the team, and it’s unclear whether he’ll return in time to reclaim a starting role.

“What’s great about the team is that the players know what they do and do the same things they do,” Bostic said.

SEE BACKERS, PAGE 46

By KYLE MAISTRI
Alligator Staff Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

It’s hard to argue UF’s defense — which coach Urban Meyer said has a chance to go down as one of the best ever — has a weak link, but the one unit that seems to offer up the most questions is the line.

Perhaps that says more about the secondary and linebackers, but the tackle position is the most competitive battle for a starting spot on the defense.

Juniors Lawrence Marsh and Terron Sanders stepped into starting roles last year and are the favorites to hold their positions, but if they falter, freshmans Omar Hunter and sophomore Jaye Howard have impressed the coaching staff in practice.

“If they don’t go out and practice well, and they don’t play well, then they’re not going to play at all,” defensive coordinator Charlie Strong said of the position battle.

Sanders said he feels good about where he stands in the pecking order, but admitted the competition for playing time is fierce.

“I really feel as though only certain spots on the team are cemented, especially on the defensive front,” Sanders said. “Every day is a competition, and every day is a challenge, and every day could make or break your chances of starting or getting the bulk of the playing time.”

The end positions are more solidified, as senior Jermaine Cunningham and junior Carlos Dunlap have two years as starters under their belts.

Strong told an anecdote at UF’s Media Day illustrating the type of understanding that can come only with ample experience.

In the national championship game, Oklahoma faced third and 2 with the ball on the hash mark closest to its own bench. The Sooners subbed in bigger personnel to try to pick up the first down, and Strong was unable to counter with subs of his own for fear of having too many men on the field or burning a timeout.

Linebacker Ryan Stamper stuffed up the play for a loss, but when Dunlap came off the field, he had something to say to Strong.

“He said, ‘Coach, we were in the wrong defense! We can’t run that defense against that personnel grouping.’” Strong said. “I said, ‘I never thought you would know that. I’m glad you did.’”

Junior Justin Trattou will be pushing for playing time on the outside, and a high football IQ could end up being the difference the coaches are looking for.

Defensive line coach Dan McCarney said the talent is there for the taking.

SEE D-LINE, PAGE 46
Final O-line spot up for grabs

By MIKE DIFERDINANDO
Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

With the departure of seniors Phil Trautwein and Jason Watkins, the Gators will look to reshuffle the offensive line heading into the 2009 season.

Mike and Maurkice Pouncey are givens. Carl Johnson and Marcus Gilbert will be in the trenches as well. The last spot isn’t so black and white.

Johnson, who started at left guard last year, worked out at left tackle in the spring. But with the emergence of sophomore tackle Matt Patchan, Johnson could be slated for a move back inside despite his desire to remain at tackle.

“That’s what I want, but our offense is predicated off middle push, so if I have to play guard and that’s what it takes to get another championship, then let’s go to Pasadena,” Johnson said.

The junior is happy to be back on the field after a tumultuous offseason.

Johnson underwent knee surgery a week after UF’s win against Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game.

Then, in February, he was arrested for allegedly violating a restraining order after he boarded a bus with his ex-girlfriend, who had filed a temporary injunction against him. All charges were eventually dismissed.

“You have to surround yourself with good people, strong coaching staff like the one we have here,” Johnson said. “If you got enough support behind you, you can get through anything.”

Patchan, who weighed just 260 pounds in the spring, put on nearly 30 pounds this summer and has impressed so far this fall.

“That’s what I want, but our offense is predicated off middle push, so if I have to play guard and that’s what it takes to get another championship, then let’s go to Pasadena.”

Carl Johnson
UF junior offensive lineman

“If you need to gain weight, go eat with Carl (Johnson),” Patchan said. “That’s the trick — eat like Carl eats.”

Patchan’s long arms and athleticism make him an ideal choice at tackle.

If Patchan can lock down a spot at left tackle and Johnson slides back to guard, junior Maurkice Pouncey would remain at center.

Sophomore center Sam Robey has drawn rave reviews from coaches and could see time up front.

If Robey ends up on the ball, Pouncey would work at guard with Johnson at left tackle. James Wilson should also see time in the rotation but could have a hard time cracking the lineup behind Patchan and Robey.

Only Gilbert, who is a mainstay at right tackle, is set in stone.

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UF RUNNING BACKS

Demps, Rainey anchor speedy UF running attack

By KYLE MAISTRI
Alligator Staff Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

UF opponents should prepare
to be hit with a steady dose of light-
ning and more lightning this season,
as sophomore speedsters Jeff Demps
and Chris Rainey are expected to
take the bulk of the carries out of the
backfield.

Though neither are prototypical
between-the-tackles runners, run-
ning backs coach Kenny Carter has
set lofty goals for his unit, but not
necessarily any one player.

“We’re concerned about what
we do as a unit, not what we do as
individuals because it doesn’t mat-
ter,” he said. “If we’re productive
as a unit, that’s the deal. It was the
second-most productive unit in the
history of Florida football last sea-
son, and we intend to do better than
that.”

Demps has garnered praise from
the coaching staff for his ability to
do everything out of the backfield.
He has shown a good understand-
ing of the offense, the ability to pick
up blitzes and has become a viable
receiving option, something that has
put him in contention to see a signif-
icant amount of time in the hybrid
position that Percy Harvin made so
deadly in his time as a Gator.

Coach Urban Meyer said Rainey
has shown vast improvement in
contributing to all areas of the game,
pointing out that the running back
has become more “intelligent” and
“mature,” two words he joked he
never thought he would use to de-
scribe him.

The other tailback who saw a sig-
ificant amount of playing time last
season is junior Emmanuel Moody,
who spent the first two days of prac-
tice on a stationary bike while bat-
ting an ankle injury.

Moody, who is listed at 210
pounds, outweighs Demps and
Rainey by about 30 pounds and
is considered a better option in a
more pro-style system that requires
pounding the ball up the middle.

With talk of an under-center
package being put into the offense, it
seemed Moody would finally have
a chance to cement a role on in the
backfield. However, there was not a
single snap taken from under center
by anyone other than punter Chas
Henry in the first two open prac-
tices, and Carter dispelled notions
that Moody is the only UF runner
physical enough to be effective in
that scenario.

“If you’re a running back at Flor-
ida and you’re productive, you’re
going to get the ball,” Carter said.
“One person specifically, we’re not
going to say, ‘OK, because we’re
under center, we’re going to do this,
we’re going to do that.’ The whole
thing is when Emmanuel is healthy
and ready to play, then he’ll play.
When Chris and Jeff are ready to
play, then they’ll play. One specific
person because of whether we’re
under center or not doesn’t matter.
It doesn’t matter.”

Senior Brandon James and fresh-
man Mike Gillislee will provide in-
surance in the event injuries force
the coaching staff to reach deeper
into the depth chart.

With so much emphasis on the
success of the unit as a whole, Carter
isn’t concerned with the prospect of
losing Moody, or any other tailback,
to injury.

“One of my coaches that I
coached for a long time ago told
me, ‘You play with who you have,’”
Carter said. “That’s why you recruit,
so I never get nervous about that. If
you’re nervous, then that means you
don’t have good enough players on
your roster, so at Florida you’re not
going to be nervous.”

UF SOPHOMORE Chris Rainey has worked on bettering his all-around game and will team with Jeff Demps
to form one of the nation’s fastest running back duos.

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STATE OF THE PROGRAM

FOOTBALL

It’s hard to say if there’s been a more anticipated football season in school history. The Gators enter the fall as the consensus preseason pick to win the national title and become the first undisputed repeat champ since Nebraska in 1994-95. There has even been talk of UF going undefeated for the first time in school history, which isn’t surprising since the team returns all but four starters from the squad that took home the crystal ball in 2008.

The offense is again led by 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow who is playing in his final season and touting his legacy as one of the best college football players of all time. The defense returns an extraordinary amount of depth with every starter and back-up returning from 2008 and plenty of capable freshmen ready to step in.

Perhaps the only question mark comes from the loss of electrifying playmaker Percy Harvin, who left for the NFL after his junior season and was selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the first round. Defenses constantly had to pay attention to Harvin, allowing the Gators to make them pay by spreading the ball around.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

UF is coming off of a second straight year without an NCAA Tournament appearance, and became the first team since Michigan State in 1981 not to make the Big Dance in consecutive years after winning the national title.

With the departure of star point guard Nick Calathes, who is now playing professionally in Greece, the Gators, who finished 25-11, again enter the season with more questions than answers.

In the backcourt, UF returns sophomore Erving Walker and has recently signed Israeli point guard Nimrod Tishman. The 6-foot-6 Tishman averaged more than 18 points per game in the under-18 European Championships.

UF’s season likely hinges on the development of 6-foot-10 Georgetown transfer Vernon Macklin and true freshman guard Kenny Boynton.

Macklin averaged 3.4 points and 2.1 rebounds per game in 2007-08 at Georgetown while super recruit Boynton put up 31 points per contest as a senior at Plantation American Heritage High School.

If Macklin and Boynton pan out and the Gators continue to see growth from veteran forwards Alex Tyus and Chandler Parsons, UF is good enough to play their way back to the Big Dance.

VOLLEYBALL

Coach Mary Wise has led the Gators to 18 consecutive Southeastern Conference titles, but UF has never won a national championship despite routinely finishing as one of the nation’s top 10 teams.

The Gators head into this season as the No. 9 team in the country with hopes of making it past the Sweet Sixteen, which has become the common exit point over the last few years.

Defensive specialist Cristina Diaz and middle blocker Kelsey Bowers are the only two players UF lost to graduation as the Gators supremely talented freshman class of a year ago will now have a season’s worth of experience under its belt.

Led by National Freshman of the Year Kelly Murphy, a legitimate triple-double threat every night, and Colleen Ward, who emerged as a steady offense weapon from the outside, UF will still rely heavily on underclassmen for production.

This will be the last go-around for senior Elyse Cusack, the greatest libero in school history, and the pressure to win while she still roams the back line will be great.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

This season will prove to be a big turning point for the UF women’s basketball program. Coach Amanda Butler enters her third season at the helm after a miraculous two-year turnaround, but the Gators will be without First Team All-SEC guard Sha Brooks and Second Team All-SEC forward Marshae Dotson.

While lacking the star power of 2008-09, guard Jennifer Mossor returns for her senior year after missing most of last season with an ACL injury. Three-point specialist Jordan Jones, a South Carolina transfer, is eligible this season. Two incoming recruits pack a lot of promise as well: 5-foot-11 Ms. North Carolina Basketball Christal Caldwell and 5-foot-7 Georgia Class AAAA Girl’s Basketball Player of the Year Tesha Jett, both guards.

The Gators had a 10-win improvement in 2007-08 followed by a return to the NCAA Tournament and a top-10 finish in 2008-09. Now Butler and UF face the test of continuing to meet rising expectations.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

For the last two seasons, it has been a toss up between Meghan Berlingo and Katie Fraine for the Gators starting goalie job. Berlingo made the choice easy for UF coach Becky Burleigh this offseason by packing her bags for Washington State.

The two rotated in goal on a game-to-game basis for most of the season, but it was Fraine who played every minute during their NCAA Tournament run, which probably played a big role in Berlingo’s decision.

Fraine will be aided by the return of all four starting defenders from last year including Lauren Hyde who has made an All-SEC team in each of her three years.

The offensive attack lost Ameera Abdullah and Megan Kerns, but returns budding stars Taylor Ansley and Lindsay Thompson.

The Gators will again be ready to make a run in the NCAA Tournament and will try to advance past the round of 16 for the first time since 2005.

CROSS COUNTRY

The UF women’s cross country team finished 17th in last year’s NCAA Championships, but coach Todd Morgan’s squad will have a good chance to break into the top 10 in 2009.

The Gators lost just two runners to graduation, and after sitting out last season with an injury, Rebecca Love will be a nice addition to a team featuring 2008 SEC Female Freshman of the Year Genevieve Lacaze and junior Ali Crabb.

All-American Jeremy Criscione reached the NCAA Championships for UF’s men’s team a year ago. But Criscione is gone, and the rest of the team did not qualify for the NCAA Championships. Sean Blaney and the other five seniors could have a long road ahead of them.

GOLF

After a season that ended in disappointment, the men’s team will have to make up for the loss of four-time All-American Billy Horschel. Seniors Tyson Alexander and Tim McKenney will be looked upon to carry the load and fill the void left by Horschel.

The young women’s team felt some growing pains last season after playing with a lineup full of freshmen and sophomores for most of the year. However, this summer the Gators hired a new head coach in Jan Dowling in hopes of a return to prominence. All-SEC junior Jessica Yadloczky will have to receive some help from talented sophomores Andrea Watts and Evan Jensen if the team wants to bounce back from a difficult year.

TENNIS

The No. 14 UF women’s tennis team advanced to the Sweet 16 in College Station, Texas, where it was defeated 4-2 by then-No. 2 Georgia. All scholarship players return for the fall, including No. 7 Marrit Boonstra, who notched her 50th career win before bowing out in the singles quarterfinals.

The Gators, plagued by injury in the spring, will introduce prospects Lauren Embree (ranked the No. 2 recruit), Allie Will, Caroline Hitimana and Claire Bartlett.

On the men’s side, No. 11 UF hopes to build on a season that showed promise for the future. Like the women’s squad, the Gators started four underclassmen regularly, led by southpaw freshman Carlos Cueto (No. 25).
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BACKERS, from page 41

linebacker position is you have them all back, with a leader in Spikes, then you have Stamper back, you have A.J. Jones back and you have Brandon Hicks," defensive coordinator Charlie Strong said. “The battles are always there, and then with a young Jelani Jenkins and Bosic, the key thing for those young kids is they have to watch the upperclassmen work, and their opportunity will come.”

Stamper has long been described as one of the most respected players on the team, but there’s no question who has the biggest impact at the position. Spikes led the Gators with 93 tackles in 2008, tied for second on the team with four interceptions and returned two of those for scores.

He locks down the middle of the field, but he’s free to roam and has a keen sense of where he needs to be to make a big play. Also, Spikes said he’ll be used more on the outside this season to put pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

That makes for a dangerous package, one his position mates are ecstatic to have around.

“It made us really happy knowing that we had a leader coming back. It’s always a great thing to have because without a leader you can trust, you pretty much don’t have a team,” Hicks said. “Spikes returning really put that completeness that we needed on our defense. Instead of looking for a leader, we already have one that’s going to lead us to the promised land, and that’s where we plan to get to.”

PHIL, from page 41

Yep, people go to the library or other “usually packed” locations in Gainesville. They often use an explanation that has to do with the fact that this is a rare time when said destination is empty.

Hello! There’s a reason why Gainesville is dead on game days outside of The Swamp and the surrounding area. Don’t be one of those people. Ever.

Third, become a Rowdy Reptile as quickly as possible. What’s that, you ask? It’s the frequent flyer program for the UF men’s basketball team.

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Well, there you have it. Consider those the basic three steps to not messing up your UF athletics experience.

Surely I left some things out, but the advice boils down to this: Do as much as you can. Live it up. Try things. Have fun. Be smart. All UF sporting events besides football are free to students, and except for men’s basketball, you don’t have to do any advance work to attend. Just show up and flash your Gator1. It’s just that simple.

You may not get the Wendy’s experience, but then again you’re probably better (and healthier) off without it. Just follow the three steps.

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McCarney: Talent is there

D-LINE, from page 41

the line to become a major factor for the highly talented defensive as long as they can come up with the right answers to a few questions.

“How good do you want to be? Do you want to be the best? Do you want to be the best to ever put on a Florida uniform?” McCarney said. “Do you want to be the best in the SEC? Do you want to try to become one of the best in the country?”

“The sky is the limit for these guys.”
UF RECEIVERS

Cooper back on football field after signing with Rangers

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
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For two weeks, Riley Cooper wasn’t sure he was going to play college football again.
The 25th-round pick in June’s MLB Draft was in contract negotiations with the Texas Rangers, and the baseball franchise wasn’t immediately sold on allowing the outfielder to return to Gainesville for his senior season.
Cooper admits he began considering life without football.
Then, the Rangers gave the green light, and now the 6-foot-3, 215-pound wideout is trying to catch up on the gridiron after missing all of spring practice and summer workouts.
“I love football. I love baseball,” Cooper said. “I wanted to come back and contribute for a third national championship.”
Cooper said he thought he would feel more out of shape than he does.

Receivers coach Billy Gonzales complimented the senior receiver on his conditioning work and feels it’s only a matter of time until the senior is back to playing like normal.
Cooper started 12 games last season and finished fifth on the team in receiving with 18 catches for 261 yards.
Gonzales said Cooper’s track record would not be forgotten as starting spots are deciding during fall camp.
“Here’s the difference,” Gonzales said, “He’s a guy who’s proven himself.”
Gonzales knows his experience will help mold the mostly inexperienced receiving corps, including incoming freshmen Stephen Alli and Andre Debose.
“They gotta understand what it’s like to play in the Southeastern Conference,” Gonzales said. “They’ve gotta see somebody that’s done it before. He brings that toughness factor.”
The wideouts coach initially missed a late-night call from Cooper’s father, Larry, about the good news. Gonzales said he had texted Riley back and forth and had a good feeling. He was happy to learn the following morning that he would have the senior wideout who keeps things “lively” during meetings.
There was another Gator especially happy to hear Cooper was returning to Gainesville: his roommate, Tim Tebow.
Tebow said he let Cooper make his own decision while weighing football against baseball.
“I just let him know that we wanted him back,” Tebow said, “and we wanted him part of this team.”
He might have been avoiding stepping on coaches’ toes, but Tebow wasn’t ready to guarantee any starting spots, even to one of his closest friends on the team.
“We’re not going to hand out a job, or you’re not going to have a job just because you had one last year,” Tebow said. “You’ve gotta come and compete. That’s what (Cooper) wants.”
For now, though, Cooper is just happy to be able to finish up his gridiron career before shifting his complete focus to baseball.
“It’s a special team,” he said.
“I’m real excited to get back with the guys. I missed everybody.”

Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff
UF wide receiver Riley Cooper will play his senior season with the Gators after signing a contract with the Texas Rangers, but despite his experience, he has not been guaranteed a starting spot.

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When it came time to move up to Gainesville and start my college career three years ago, I ended up living in Thomas Hall with my best friend from high school.

After a two-year break, we are living together again, and he has expressed disappointment in failing to experience the UF sports culture.

Unlike myself, a total sports junkie perhaps to a fault, he was never a big “sports guy” and could probably count all of the university athletic events he has attended on two hands. He never applied for season football tickets or even took home a “Rowdy Reptiles” shirt from a home basketball game.

“You wish you had been more involved now, yet you were on campus for arguably the greatest three-year time span at any university in the history of college sports,” I said to him.

OK, so consoling isn’t my thing. But honestly, I feel bad for him. When I look back at my time here as a fan, before I decided I wanted to be a sportswriter, I remember all the experiences I had with my friends.

I could name the football team’s third-string running back, the baseball team’s starting pitching rotation and the soccer team’s goalie, but that isn’t what getting involved in Gators sports was about.

It wasn’t about BCS rankings, half-court traps or the 6-2 volleyball attack, either.

Being a UF fan was sitting five rows up from the front pylon of the north end zone with a handful of friends while the Gators stomped Southern Miss during my first game in The Swamp.

It was waking up soaking wet after sleeping on the O’Dome concrete for a week before the Kentucky basketball game.

It was laughing as my friend from back home bought a $5 “Spurrier is a cock” T-shirt outside of The Swamp before watching the most dramatic live sporting event I have ever been to, capped off with a Jarvis Moss field goal block to preserve a potential national championship.

And it was road tripping to Atlanta to watch one of the greatest basketball teams of all time repeat in one of the most fun weekends I’ve ever had in my life.

“This is the best weekend of our lives to date,” one of my friends said to me.

Sports are part of the culture “here at the University of Florida,” as Tim Tebow would say. They’re a part of everyday life and a part of the college experience that everyone associates with a small, rural town like Gainesville.

When I got a job at the Alligator I traded in my orange and blue body paint for a notebook, recorder and an objective view on all things UF-related.

Don’t put yourself in a position to regret your general sports apathy right before you graduate, or when a career decision forces you out of the stands.

The camaraderie is something you will never get back, and the memories made with your friends are priceless.

Trade in a couple nights at the library for a couple nights in the O’Dome, McKethan or Pressly.

Because even if you aren’t forced into a world of objectivity, med school or law school might strip you of your freedom down the road.

You only get so many years of $70 lottery season tickets and free admission with a Gator1.

You only get so many years of grilling up burgers, dropping a keg and playing cornhole at a tailgate just down University from The Swamp.

And you only get so many years of doing it with a bunch of friends who are just as excited about and invested in watching the Gators as you are.

My best friend from high school only has one more year to try to make up for everything he never took the time to explore in his first three, but worst of all, he has reached the point where he doesn’t have too many people to do it with.

Many of his friends, not to mention himself, are in crunch time for finishing their degrees or in grad school, unable to escape the library for much more than a shower and a bite to eat.

I was even traitorous enough to give it all up for a byline and a column name.

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UF FOOTBALL

Tebow ramps up intensity as final season approaches

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

Tim Tebow’s time in Gainesville is ticking down.

Three years after stepping on campus as one of the most highly touted recruits ever, the now-senior has lived up to all the hype, assisting in one national championship and directly leading to another with a Heisman Trophy in between.

He isn’t letting up now.

Throughout the summer, Tebow dragged his inexperienced receiving corps out to the practice field to work on every possible game scenario.

The calls and text messages to summon his wideouts came as early as 4:30 a.m. some days.

“He’s the kind of guy who will call you once. If you don’t answer, he’ll call you again. If you don’t answer, he’ll call you again, call you again and call you again,” redshirt senior receiver David Nelson said. “He’s a tremendous leader and a tremendous talent, but sometimes you’re like, ‘C’mon man. You’re killing my phone bill.’”

It is a sacrifice Tebow is willing to make to ensure the most hyped team in the country lives up to expectations. The Gators lost almost 50 percent of their receiving yards with the departure of Percy Harvin and Louis Murphy.

This summer was all about working on timing between Tebow and the guys who will now be expected to carry the load, including Nelson and sophomore Deonte Thompson.

“It depends on how much you want to win and what your passion is,” Tebow said. “There are no limits. We want to do whatever it takes to win right now.”

Sophomore John Brantley, Tebow’s backup, summed up the summer workouts with him as “intense.”

“He tells me every day he’s really intense this summer,” Brantley said. “He says this is my last go-around at it, and I wanna do the best I can.”

He’s really pumped up for this season.”

While this year’s starting quarterback is all set, some emphasis has started to move toward the future with Brantley being the heir apparent to end up under center for UF in 2010.

It started last fall with Tebow taking Brantley with him on his victory laps after games, perhaps because Tebow wasn’t sure at that point if he would be back. The mentoring continued this summer as Tebow dragged Brantley out to his impromptu workouts with the wide receivers.

“Since day one, he’s taught me,” Brantley said. “When I first got here, he’s doing stuff that’s blowing my mind, and still he’s just teaching me every day because it helps him learn and it helps me learn.”

The new addition at quarterback, incoming freshman Jordan Reed, did not have much to say after his first day of practice.

Reed, rated by Rivals.com as the 10th-best dual-threat quarterback recruit, appeared to be under a gag order after quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler spoke to him. It is unclear why, but Reed answered questions on a wide variety of topics with variations of, “I’m just happy to be here.”

Perhaps the freshman was overwhelmed, similar to the feeling Tebow had when he started three years ago. With his final two-a-days underway, the senior reflected on his first one in 2006.

“Just trying to come out here and earn the guys’ respect and not look too stupid in front of all the leaders and all the other guys,” Tebow said. “Now, being one of those guys, it’s funny to be able to watch the freshmen out here try and not look stupid and feel comfortable and feel in.”

Now, it’s safe to say Tebow feels right at home in Gainesville, and he will be spending plenty of time in the football complex this fall.

He will be taking just one class during his final football season and may rival Meyer’s working hours as his college career draws to a close.

“I think we should have to punch our time clocks,” Tebow said with a laugh.

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What to watch for in ‘09

This season could get a little boring for Gators fans. UF enters the year as the overwhelming favorite to go wire-to-wire as the No. 1 team in the nation. With a weak schedule to boot, here are five pertinent questions to keep you busy until Jan. 7.

What to watch for in ‘09

JOIN OUR GATOR TEAM

WHAT WILL THE DEFENSE LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS?

Urban Meyer has publicly said his defense has a chance to go down as one of the greatest of all time.

• Best in UF history: 1960 — 7.4 points per game
• Best in NCAA history: 1938 Duke — 0.0 ppg; 1939 Tennessee — 0.0 ppg
• Key Players: Sr. LB Brandon Spikes, So. CB Janoris Jenkins, Jr. DE Carlos Dunlap
• Potential Obstacles: Defensive line depth

WHAT ARE TIM TEBOW’S CHANCES OF WINNING ANOTHER HEISMAN TROPHY?

After winning the Heisman Trophy in 2007 and finishing third in 2008, Tim Tebow will be one of the three top candidates for this year’s award.

• Only two-time Heisman winner: Archie Griffin (1974, 1975)
• Players who have been to the Heisman ceremony twice or more since 2000: Tim Tebow, Darren McFadden, Reggie Bush, Matt Leinart, Jason White, Ken Dorsey
• Best in NCAA: 1971 Oklahoma — 472.4 ypg
• Best in UF history: 1960 — 7.4 points per game
• Potential Obstacles: Emmanuel Moody’s health, new faces on the offensive line

WHO WILL STEP UP AS A PASS-CATCHING OPTION AT WIDE RECEIVER?

Wide receiver wasn’t exactly a focal point on the previous national championship teams, so if this unit can merely put up comparable production to the 2006 and 2008 teams, it should be more than enough.

• 2006 Receiving yards: 190 yards per game
• 2008 Receiving yards: 180 ypg
• Key players: Sr. David Nelson, So. Deonte Thompson, Fr. Andre Debose
• Potential Obstacles: Lack of experience, no clear No. 1

WHERE WOULD THREE TITLES IN FOUR YEARS RANK HISTORICALLY?

With a repeat national title, the Gators would enter the discussion for one of the greatest four year spans of all time.

• College Football:
  Never
• Notable other college teams:
  • UCLA Men’s Basketball: Seven titles in a row (1967-73)
  • Kentucky Men’s Basketball: Three titles (1948-51)
  • UConn Women’s Basketball: Three titles (2002-04)
  • Tennessee Women’s Basketball: Three titles (1996-98)
• Notable other sports teams:
  • Celtics: Eight titles (1956-66), Bulls: Three titles (1990-93, 1995-98)
  • Lakers: Four titles; three titles (1984-88, 1999-2002)
  • Cowboys: Three titles (1992-95), Patriots: Three titles (2001-04)
• Other impressive such streaks:
  • Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Four presidential terms (1933-45)

WHY DOES THIS RUNNING BACK UNIT HAVE A CHANCE TO BE THE MOST PRO-DUCTIVE IN SCHOOL HISTORY?

Running backs coach Kenny Carter has said that is precisely the goal, and with two lightning fast speedsters, they might just have a chance.

• Best in UF history:
  • 1975 — 302.4 yards per game
• Best in NCAA: 1971 Oklahoma — 472.4 ypg
• Key Players: So. Chris Rainey, So. Jeff Demps
• Potential Obstacles: Emmanuel Moody’s health, new faces on the offensive line

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Defensive backs competing for time

FOUR SAFETIES FIGHT TO SEE THE FIELD.

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

Safeties coach Chuck Heater jokingly called himself Mother Teresa after practice last week.

He was referring to his ability to resurrect Ahmad Black’s career a year ago, but he could have been talking about his work with the entire secondary in 2008.

“(Chuck Heater is) one of the best coaches in America, and we’re fortunate to have him.”

Urban Meyer
UF football coach

UF allowed an average of 288.5 yards through the air in 2007 and ended the season on a sour note when the Gators let Michigan quarterback Chad Henne complete 25 of 39 passes for 375 yards and three touchdowns albeit with two interceptions.

The secondary faced plenty of criticism during the 2008 preseason, especially with Black, a cornerback turned safety, forced into use due to Dorian Munroe’s preseason ACL injury.

The tune is much different in 2009 after UF allowed only 179.9 passing yards per game last season, and the Gators return all four starters — Joe Haden and Janoris Jenkins at cornerback and Major Wright and Black at safety.

“It seems like every year he pulls a guy out,” coach Urban Meyer said of Heater. “He’s one of the best coaches in America, and we’re fortunate to have him.”

The battle to start at safety this season will be even more heated with Munroe recovered from his knee injury and sophomore Will Hill quickly developing into one of the defense’s most improved players.

“Healer said Hill wasn’t really ready to play until midway through the season but finished the year strong while seeing plenty of time at the nickel corner position.”

That will likely continue in 2009 as Meyer said UF will likely play a lot of three-safety sets to maximize the Gators’ talent.

“We want to make sure we have creative ways to have (Hill) on the field because he’s going to be a Freshman in 2009 after UF allowed only 179.9 passing yards per game last season, and the Gators return all four starters — Joe Haden and Janoris Jenkins at cornerback and Major Wright and Black at safety.

“It seems like every year he pulls a guy out,” coach Urban Meyer said of Heater. “He’s one of the best coaches in America, and we’re fortunate to have him.”

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“We want to make sure we have creative ways to have (Hill) on the field because he’s going..."
By MIKE DIFERDINANDO
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How do you replace a guy who is irreplaceable?

Percy Harvin led the Gators’ running backs and wide receivers in receptions (40 for 644 yards), rushing yards (660) and total touchdowns (17) last season.

Urban Meyer’s “Percy Position” will likely be filled by a committee of speedsters. Tailbacks Jeff Demps and Brandon James and freshman wide receiver Andre Debose should all get a chance to audition for the role.

Demps’ pass-catching ability and speed out of the backfield coupled with his knowledge of the offense make him the logical choice heading into the start of the season, but Debose, the highly touted freshman, enters his first year in Gainesville as the heir apparent to Harvin.

After Debose signed to play at UF in February, Meyer dubbed the Sanford Seminole High standout the “next Percy Harvin,” but the freshman has tried to distance himself from comparisons with the first-round NFL draft pick.

“The next Percy, I don’t want to hear that,” Debose said. “I know (Harvin) was a great player, but I want to kind of build my own way in Gainesville. When you look at playing styles, I can see myself in him a little bit. I can’t blame you guys at all (for comparing me to him).”

Junior tight end Aaron Hernandez should pick up some of the slack as he becomes more of a focal point in the UF offense this season.

Hernandez caught 34 balls for 381 yards and five touchdowns as a sophomore last season and looks poised to make the jump into the national spotlight.

“(Hernandez) is a dynamic guy that can catch the ball like any wide receiver. He can make the tough catches. You can get the ball in his hands as a tailback and he can block at the point,” UF offensive coordinator Steve Addazio said. “It’s hard to find guys like that throughout this country. He’s a unique guy.”

The receiving corps will be led by seniors David Nelson and Riley Cooper, who is back with team after signing to play professional baseball for the Texas Rangers.

Nelson emerged as a legitimate red-zone threat at the end of last season and should provide vertically for the Gators.

“There’s a lot of people doubting us,” Thompson said. “A lot of people out there are saying Florida’s only weakness is the receivers. We got to go out there with a chip on our shoulders. We got to prove them wrong.”

Debose faces loftiest expectations

FRESHMEN, from page 52

running back Mike Gillislee will probably see the field as well.

Receiver Andre Debose is surrounded by the most hype, as hopes abound that he can fill the dynamic role left behind by Percy Harvin. If Debose has injury problems or a slow start, he could get buried under the weight of enormous expectations, just as Hunter was.

“I talked to Debose one day last week about how he was recruited like me and not to let it get him down,” Hunter said. “All that stuff is over with, so now it’s time to come in and play.”

Jenkins, Haden lead way at corner

SECONDARY, from page 52

to be one of our best players,” Heater said. “Last year, we made sure he was on the field at the end of the season.”

Having four experienced guys at safety changes the tone of two-a-days as well.

“You know what they can do,” Heater said. “The challenge is to get them to do it again and then to get them to do it better. It’s easy to get distracted and forget about how you got there.”

The corner position should have plenty of depth as well, with Jenkins and Haden returning and Moses Jenkins and Markihe Anderson the likely backups. Redshirt freshmen Adrian Bushell and Jeremy Brown could also see significant time.

Heater doesn’t worry about bruising egos with playing time.

“I tell them, ‘You earn the right to play, and our job is to find ways to get them on the field and play,’” Heater said. “I’ve always prided myself on that. Honestly, it’s rare to have a situation where you have everyone deserving to play. If that happens, that’s great for the Gators.”

Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF wide receiver Andre Debose is expected to make a big contribution at wideout this fall, and the Gators hope he will replace some of Percy Harvin’s offensive output.

Tim Tebow with a sure-handed option in the middle of the field, while speedy sophomore Deonte Thompson will stretch the field vertically for the Gators.

“There’s a lot of people doubting us,” Thompson said. “A lot of people out there are saying Florida’s only weakness is the receivers. We got to go out there with a chip on our shoulders. We got to prove them wrong.”
Haden takes snaps in Wildcat

By MIKE DiFERDINANDO
Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

It was like a scene out of a movie.

Joe Haden picked up a ball and tossed it across the practice field to UF coach Urban Meyer.

“That thing came at me, tight spiral and hot. I said ‘Do that again.’ He did, and ever since then Scott (Loeffler, UF quarterbacks coach) has been talking to me about it,” Meyer said.

Meyer was so impressed with the cornerback’s arm that he opted to name Haden the team’s new Wildcat quarterback this fall.

Last year, Percy Harvin was used in the Wildcat in order to give opposing defenses a different look, and in 2007 Jarred Fayson, who has since transferred to Illinois, took a few snaps in the formation.

The Gators have proven they can excel without a traditional running back carrying the ball.

Harvin ran for 1,852 yards and 19 touchdowns in three seasons at UF, with many of those carries coming after taking a direct snap from behind center.

The junior defensive standout is no stranger to playing with the ball in his hands.

Before moving to cornerback as a freshman, Haden starred as a quarterback at Maryland’s Friendly High.

Haden, the first true freshman to start at cornerback for UF on opening day (2007), threw for 2,783 yards as a high school senior, set a Maryland public school record with 7,371 career passing yards and tied the career mark for touchdown passes with 80.

“I can really throw,” Haden said. “I used to really play quarterback. It’s not like I’m a defensive back trying to play quarterback.”

“I’m not going to steal (Tebow’s job). I’m going to borrow it for a second.”

Joe Haden
UF junior cornerback

As a high school recruit, Haden was sold on UF partially because he thought he would have a chance to play both ways.

Now, more than two years later, he may finally get his chance.

“It was a little part of the plan, but when I got here and they had Tebow, that put an end to that,” Haden said. “I’ve always told coach Meyer I wanted to get back on that side (of the ball), even if it was just two plays or something like that.

“When I’m playing it, running plays, that just brings back memories.”

The All-Southeastern Conference defensive back was also slated to line up at wide receiver for the Gators before being replaced in the lineup by Harvin.

Haden has started 26 games at corner for the Gators.

Haden has been staying after practice to throw with quarterbacks Tim Tebow and John Brantley and says there is a very real chance he could put the Heisman Trophy winner on the sideline for at least a couple plays each game.

But Loeffler said he has not worked with Haden in practice, which could mean that Haden will be doing a lot more running than throwing despite his high school credentials.

Haden said he has worked with Loeffler and knows nine plays, all of which are run out of the shotgun formation. The junior, who once clocked a 4.34 40-yard dash at a high school scouting combine, might just be the newest wrinkle to the UF offense.

“I’m not going to steal (Tebow’s job),” Haden said. “I’m going to borrow it for a second.”

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Holtz talks to UF

By MIKE McCALL
Alligator Staff Writer
mmc@alligator.org

UF quarterback Tim Tebow is facing some serious competition for the role of top motivational speaker in the Gators’ locker room.

UF coach Urban Meyer has brought in coaching partners Bill Belichick and Doc Rivers in the past, and he added to that list Monday by inviting ESPN analyst Lou Holtz, a colleagues-turned friends — Bill Belichick is one and (Utah coach) Kyle Whittingham is another (and I run through them by all the time). I have a little circle of guys who I constantly am on the phone with.”

Football

“I'm very careful about who we allow to speak to our team,” Meyer said. “I have some very confid- ent friends — Bill Belichick is one and (Utah coach) Kyle Whittingham is another — and I run through them by all the time. I have a little circle of guys who I constantly am on the phone with.”

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Young Alli working to adjust to new game

Imagine what it must be like to be Stephen Alli.

A few months ago, he was a soon-to-be high school senior — a basketball prospect with just a single season of organized football under his belt.

Now, he’s the Gators’ least experienced scholarship football player.

When Urban Meyer saw Alli at the Friday Night Lights football camp in July, he was wowed by the 6-foot-6 receiver’s raw athletic ability.

So much so that he offered him a scholarship on the spot.

Alli was supposed to be the latest commitment of the 2010 recruiting class, and plans were in the works for him to enroll at UF this spring.

But after reviewing his high school transcript, advisors discovered that he had already passed the 16 core courses required for eligibility and that he had earned enough credits to graduate.

When the coaching staff learned the 18-year-old native of Toronto was eligible to enroll in college for free, they jumped at the chance to get him to Gainesville and start his career with the Gators.

The freshman enrolled so late that he doesn’t even have a room-mate.

A l l i ’ s situation is unique, but there isn’t the first high school football player to make the jump to college a year early.

T e m p o r a r y

The Gators in the future.

“Normally when you get a tall, rangy athlete like that he’s not an expensive guy, but (Alli’s) athletic. He’s got great quicks,” Gonzales said.

Ali arrived in Gainesville on Aug. 4 and suited up for his first practice with the Gators two days later.

“He’s walking around right now like he’s on Mars,” Meyer said.

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