Ana Gont-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Turlington Page-Turner
While waiting for her Plants, Health and Spirituality class to start, 19-year-old Laura Hundersmarck, an anthropology and Portuguese major, reads the Alligator outside of Turlington Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

ON CAMPUS
Teachers, friends remember telecom student as 'fighter'

By CAROLYN TILLO
Alligator Writer

Samantha Grosse was a curious, motivated student. The UF telecommunications student worked in the WRUF newsroom for class. She liked international politics, loved animals and was in Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

She didn’t like to use her disease as an excuse.

That’s why she didn’t tell Tom Krynski, the news director of WRUF-AM and WRUF-FM, that she had cystic fibrosis until she started missing classes and shifts at the station.

“She didn’t want that to slow her down,” he said.

However, on Monday, Samantha succumbed to her disease, which affected her lungs and digestive system.

“I don’t think she had any obstacles. She just did what she wanted to do.”

Christine Eschenfelder
WUFT news assignment manager

Carlos Torres, who taught Samantha’s Radio 1 class, said she possessed the qualities of a good broadcast journalist, including an ability to work as a team player and a willingness to help her classmates, even if it meant staying after class.

“Whether she would have chosen to do on-air or production, whether she would have chosen to do news, sports or entertainment, she would have excelled at it,” Torres said.

Christine Eschenfelder, the WUFT news assignment manager, taught Samantha in her electronic news producing and management course. Eschenfelder said Sam had a bubbly personality.

SEE SAMANTHA, PAGE 4

Local custodian featured in film

By MORGAN WATKINS
Alligator Contributing Writer

Melinda Augustus doesn’t consider herself a particularly trusting person, but she opened her heart to the filmmakers who developed her story into a documentary.

The film, "The Philosopher Kings," follows Augustus, 48, a custodian at the Florida Museum of Natural History, and seven other custodians from universities across the nation as they tell their stories, showing audiences that wisdom can come from more than just textbooks and teachers.

Augustus traveled to New York twice for screenings of the film, which won or was nominated for awards at 10 film festivals. She said the chance to travel to such a beautiful area and get the red carpet treatment was amazing.

The Florida Museum of Natural History will host a free screening of the film for the public Feb. 16, said Kelly Donovan, a communications specialist at the museum.

Augustus, who lives in Alachua, was approached during the summer of 2008 to be part of the film after her supervisor, Gloria Grant, suggested her to filmmakers who came to UF looking for potential participants. They returned to film her later that summer and spent a week shadowing Augustus at work and traveling with her to her childhood home and her mother’s grave. Director Patrick Shen and producer Greg Bennick made her feel comfortable enough to open up for the camera about her experiences, she said.

The hardest part of the filming process for her was talking about her mother, who died more than a decade after a medical accident during the birth of her 15th child left her comatose, she said. Augustus was 9 years old.

“It’s amazing how some things you’ll never get over ever in your whole life,” she said. “I’ll always miss

SEE FILM, PAGE 5
Performances. This year's event is will hold its fall showcase of dance making a menorah, playing dreidel and participating in a Hanukkah-themed charades game and rap contest.

Sierra Club Program “Tread Lightly” Today, 7:30 p.m. Entomology Building, Room 3118 Brudely will describe the latest gas mileage achievements to reduce energy consumption and carbon footprints.

Wigilia Polish Holiday Celebration Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Keene Faculty Center, Dauer Hall Traditional Polish party with games, singing, and fortune telling sponsored by the Polish Student Association, Student Government, and the Center for European Studies.

Floridance presents “Winter Waltz” Sunday, 8 p.m. Phillips Center for Performing Arts The student-run dance company will hold its fall showcase of dance performances. This year’s event is raising awareness for and benefiting Relay For Life. The event is free and open to the public.

Gator Citrus Club Citrus Sale Dec. 9 to Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Field Hall The Gator Citrus Club will be hosting its annual citrus sale. Grapefruit, oranges and gift baskets will be available for purchase. For more information, please visit the club’s Web site at www.hos.ulla.edu/citrusclub/.

Food for Thought Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plaza of the Americas Hosted by the Freshman Leadership Council, food and fun activities will be provided on the Plaza of the Americas to help students take a break from studying.

Got an event? And want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to bkelley@alligator.org with “What’s Happening” in the subject line. Please include a one- to two-sentence synopsis of the event. Make sure all submissions are formatted properly. Space in this section is limited.
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Stompin’ for the Holidays!
Benefitting Toys for Tots

Thursday, Dec. 3
9 pm - 2 am
• Holiday Scavenger Hunt
• Huge Holiday Raffle
• Gateway Scooter Giveaway
• Pictures with Santa

Student Organization Competition...
$1,000 prize!

Admission includes Food, Drinks, Covers, Live Music, and Prizes!
visit gatorstompin.com for details

:08 Seconds
Thursday Night
College Night
• Ladies Drink Free
• $1.50 Longnecks for Everyone

Live DJ
Friday
• $3 Jack and Jager
• $1 Longnecks

Live Country Music with Roadhouse
Saturday
• $2 Longnecks
• $4 U-Call-It

Live DJ • Hip Hop, Country, & Rock
& Live Country Music
201 W. University Ave.

Memorial will be held Monday at AOPi house
Samantha, from page 1

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201 W. University Ave.
Smathers Library gets new look

By ERIN ROBERTS
Alligator Contributing Writer

Smathers Library just got a makeover.

A ceremony was held Wednesday morning to recognize lobby renovations that began in August, said Barbara Hood, George A. Smathers Libraries spokeswoman.

The interior was painted, new lighting was installed in the lobby, and the woodwork was stripped and restored, Hood said.

"It was described as looking like a haunted house because of the dim lighting in the lobby before the renovation," Hood said.

The lobby now also features displays honoring George Smathers.

Bruce and John Smathers, sons of the late George Smathers, were joined by their wives along with Dean of University Libraries Judith Russell to cut an orange and blue ribbon at the ceremony commemorating the inauguration of the lobby.

"Many of the libraries are administered as George A. Smathers Libraries as a system, but this rededicates the renovations that were made due to his contributions," Russell said. "The bronze plaque outside, the portrait of Sen. Smathers, artifacts, documents and overall appearance of the lobby is a much more appropriate dedication to Sen. Smathers.

Hood said rare photographs, books, artifacts and documents that are also showcased in the lobby were chosen from the special and area study collections like Asian and Africana studies, The Price Library of Judaica and the Latin American Collection, which are housed within the library.

"As a research university, we acquire materials for scholarship and research, and we preserve the artifacts in such a manner so anyone can come in and use these items for education."

Judith Russell
Dean of University Libraries

"As a research university, we acquire materials for scholarship and research, and we preserve the artifacts in such a manner so anyone can come in and use these items for education."

Russell said. "You want people to come and feel like these materials are open to you."

The improvement of the lobby is expected to lead to more progress and renovations within Smathers Library as well as throughout the campus to meet the educational needs of the students, the public and scholars and researchers around the world.

Plans are being made for the renovation of the Special Collections Research Room on the second floor of Smathers Library to increase the amount of space in the study area and overall usefulness of the room.

Bruce Smathers said in order for UF to be ranked nationally in the top 10 universities, it is necessary to provide top 10 research libraries to the students.

"Everyone wants to contribute to the athletic program, but my father recognized that this is the future of the University of Florida as an academic institution, which greatly depends on the school, but really on an excellent library system," Bruce Smathers said.

"Education is everybody’s birthright, and hopefully UF will become one of the top 10 universities in the country."

Return to main content
Opinions

Tiger’s choice of mistress was subpar

True to his reputation as the hardest-hitting driver on the PGA Tour, Tiger Woods spent the majority of his Thanksgiving holiday entering a world of pain. The grimy details that are now oozing out of the celebrity guerilla media sleaze machine only amplify the deliciousness of this sordid Tiger tale.

Tiger and the other residents of Isleworth Country Club live in palatial houses that start at $2 million, but it is refreshing to see that nobody in this exclusive enclave has decided it would be a good idea to talk to the po. Snitches get stitches, no matter if you live in Section 8 housing or on a snobbish golf course. Tiger “Stop Snitchin’ Woods usually stays far away from political endorsements or social issues, so it is good to see him take a firm stand against assisting law enforcement officers. Everybody finds their voice sometime in their lives.

The worthless public relations vomit slopped down in front of us by the more established news outlets would be insulting if it weren’t so comical. Tiger’s hot Viking nursemaid of a wife was saving his life when she smashed his SUV with a golf club in the wee hours of the night, as the official papalm read last week. Honestly, I can hardly think of a better way to get someone out from behind the wheel than to smash out the back windows with a golf club.

With the staid news outlets sucking at the teat of outraged liars and the rich neighbors making like a bunch of defiant dope boys, once again it was up to the Al-Qaida tactics of loosely-coordinated but ideologically similar celebrity news organizations to get the grubby facts about Tiger straightened out.

The saddest part of this whole ordeal is the revelation in US Weekly that Tiger was not only cheating on the Viking nursemaid with a skanky “cocktail waitress” but that said “cocktail waitress” was on the television show “Tool Academy.” I use quotes around the term “cocktail waitress” because it is code for “stripper who can’t dance.”

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of witnessing this masterpiece, after filming the first episode, “Tool Academy” instantly rocketed into the pantheon of Greatest Achievements in American History along with the Apollo space missions and Pixy Stix. The show is a transcendent experience, and like fine wine, it only gets better with age.

Obviously, my problem lies not with the show itself but with the fact that the world’s first billion-dollar athlete is sopping up slop from a guy who willingly identifies himself before a national audience as “Loud Mouth Tool.”

Tiger lost his Teflon coating this Thanksgiving weekend, but his mansions and money can surely salve most of his wounds. The stench of infidelity may be harder to wash off the formerly squeaky-clean pitchman — especially the “Tool Academy” love hexagon he has dragged his wife into — but America loves to build people back up after mercilessly tearing them down. Good thing Oprah is gonna be around for a couple more years, because Tiger may need a seat on her comfy couch sometime soon.

Tommy Maple is a graduate student in international communications. His column appears on Thursdays.
Letters to the Editor

Bible shouldn’t be followed selectively

Thank God for the Bible. I just want to thank Shaelyn McDaniels for enlightening everyone on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is so nice to hear someone spread the word of Jesus to others, letting them know that their lifestyles are abominations, just like wearing clothing with two types of material is an abomination (Leviticus 19:19). And I hate it when people “cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.” Did they not read Leviticus 19:27?

Thank you so much, Ms. McDaniels, for shaming these wicked, wicked homosexuals and people who are pro-choice. How dare they fall in love with someone, or decide what is best for their bodies? I’m just glad the Bible is so certain and proven and doesn’t reside in the fiction section of Barnes & Noble.

Nicholas Smith
UF 3LS

Christians should preach love, not hate

This is in response to Shaelyn McDaniels’ letter, “Author misinterprets the Bible’s message.”

The notion that Christians pretend that God’s love is conditional and that he only loves you if you fit some type of “normal lifestyle” is insane. If this were true, then no one would fit the definition of a Christian.

Gay people are murdered, denied equal rights, denied housing, employment and talked about as if homosexuality were some kind of disease that they could “fix” if they were “true” Christians. This is a dangerous mentality and message that Christians hold. Gay people suffer while self-righteous Christians set impossible standards and hide behind the Bible. I think that some Christians forget that only God is infallible. People need to stop preaching hate and start preaching love and acceptance of all people.

Nichole Newcome
UF animal biology senior

H1N1 vaccinations went smoothly

I would like to commend the UF Student Health Care Center for a very organized H1N1 flu shot procedure. The online sign-up system was very easy to find and use. I printed out the forms and had them with me. A tent was set up outside, and it took me exactly 30 seconds to check in. Arrows clearly directed me to the correct location in the infirmary, and the entire vaccination procedure took less than 5 minutes. Kudos to the staff who organized what could have been a madhouse with long lines into a very streamlined program.

Ginny Switt
UF alumna and ORS staff admissions

Drivers should consider feelings of fans when making bad decisions

A notice to the University Athletic Association:

I hereby appoint myself the official designated driver of the UF football team. Players can go out and get hammered during the week of the most important game of the season. It’s okay. I will be on call, prepared to offer a ride to any player in need of my service. The game against Alabama may not matter that much to the players, but it certainly does to me. I will be happy to sacrifice my sleep schedule for the duration of my time at UF to ensure that the players remain eligible for games. My services will extend beyond chauffeuring. I will also throw myself in front of any player targeted by an officer’s Taser, help work out late-night conflicts with sandwich shop employees, and retrieve from the impound lot the cars of players’ girlfriends.

I am fed up with these student athletes who jeopardize their careers and playing eligibility. Should they continue to misbehave, the players may lose scholarships or potential professional suitors, but I stand to lose more pride in my team.

Please, UF football players: Call me when in need.

Lars Rodriguez
UF 3LS

U.S. should withdraw from Afghanistan

The decision to send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan is irresponsible on the part of the administration. I helped put in power. Granted, President Obama always said during the campaign that he wanted to focus on Afghanistan because it was the forgotten war during the Bush administration, but that doesn’t make this a correct decision.

There’s a point often made about Afghanistan that it is the deathbed of empires. The British failed, the Soviets failed, and now we, too, will fail. It is a modern-day Vietnam.

We have helped put in a corrupt regime, now backed by our government, and the people aren’t happy about it. People who wouldn’t have previously been anti-American are now changing their minds about our country. The area is now a breeding ground for anti-American hostilities, but only because we made it that way.

The only responsible thing to do at this point is to pull out of Afghanistan. Did Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon make good decisions when they increased the troops to Vietnam against the will of the people in both the United States and Vietnam? No, and history shows that we should never have been in Vietnam. It’s amazing how much the American people know and how little the government listens to them in times of war.

I just read that the surge will cost about $30 billion during the first year alone. Wouldn’t that money be better off given back to the people of this country, from the lower class to the middle class, and pumped back into the economy?

Only time will tell whether this surge will work in the end. Personally, I don’t think it will, because military presence in the country has failed time and time again. All the signs of history are pointing toward the option that isn’t talked about — pulling out of Afghanistan. The area will most likely crumble, but the area will probably crumble after we leave anyway. At least we can save countless American and Afghani lives in the process.

I have supported President Obama in everything he has done or has tried to do so far. I found little fault in what he said on the campaign, and I was ecstatic when, in the small hours of the morning in November of 2008, I was a part of history. But I have to differ with him in this decision. I will continue to support him, but I think he has made a huge mistake with this surge. I just hope I’m proven wrong.

Paul Murty
UF English sophomore

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Student Government Extends Library Hours For Finals Week!

Library West and Marston Science Library will have extended hours for final exams.

Starbucks® Coffee will also be open during Library West’s hours!

For more information and library hours, please visit www.uslib.ufl.edu

December 6th to 16th

8 AM to 4 AM

George A. Smathers Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
‘Lovely Bones’ shows realm between life and death

By MARY MANCHESS
avenue writer

Saorise Ronan isn’t like her peers. She doesn’t have a fragrance or clothing line, and she isn’t among the teeny bopper, triple-threat, overnight sensations that Disney produces.

“I’ll leave Miley Cyrus to that,” the Irish actress said in a telephone conference call that The Avenue participated in on Oct. 15. “I don’t think I’m really that kind of actor.”

And she definitely isn’t. Ronan was nominated for an Academy Award at the age of 12 for her role as Briony Tallis in “Atonement.” And now at age 15, rumors of a second nomination are up in the air for her role as Susie Salmon in the upcoming film, “The Lovely Bones,” based on the best-selling novel by Alice Sebold.

The film is scheduled for limited release on Dec. 11. It will be officially released on Jan. 11.

The plot centers on Ronan’s character, 14-year-old Susie, who is brutally murdered and watches her family deal with the aftermath of her death from the in-between. In order to move onto the afterlife she must accept her death, which is conflicted by the vengeance she feels toward her murderer and the desire to have her family heal from her devastating death.

Prior to filming, Ronan decided not to read the book because at the time she was only 13 years old.

“The book is a little bit more visual and a bit more violent than the film, so I just made sense,” she said. “But I read the book this year for the first time, and I absolutely loved it, and I think because I had been through the whole experience of making the movie and living through the story, I think that helps me to really connect with the book.”

In the book there is a very graphic rape scene that lasts for about two pages. Ronan said that this scene is not featured in the film, but she doesn’t think it drastically changes the overall synopsis.

“It can make people uncomfortable, and it can make people too disturbed,” she said. “And I find that if they do it the way that we did in ‘The Lovely Bones,’ which was a very tasteful way to do it, I think, is to just leave it up to the audience’s imagination, and let them think of it for themselves, sometimes that can even be stronger.”

With a star-studded cast that includes Mark Wahlberg, Susan Sarandon, Rachel Weisz and director Peter Jackson, there are high expectations looming by bloggers and film critics.

While Ronan sees it as a privilege to work with such high-profile people in the business, she said she has never felt intimidated but always respected.

“I’ve never really been starstruck; I’ve never been speechless or anything like that. I don’t think I could do that anyway. I’m Irish,” she said. “I usually get very excited when I meet people around my own age, whether they’re well-known or not.”

Excited and cheerful are characteristics of the actress outside of her dark characters.

“I’m not particularly attracted to dark roles. I suppose with ‘Atonement’ and ‘The Lovely Bones’ it just kind of worked out that way,” she said. “But I love the depth to them. I love just their thinking process, especially with ‘Atonement.’ And it just, you know, it takes a lot of thinking to really understand those kinds of characters.”

There’s a lot of parts now where it’s very easy to just be the happy girl, and you know, there are some great characters at the moment who are more than that, and who are also very uplifting, like Susie Salmon.”

Ronan said she has also been looking at scripts that are comedic and a little bit more light-hearted. But she doesn’t think that Susie Salmon’s real story is dark.

She said, “I think that the message of this movie, although it may not seem like it to people who haven’t seen it yet, is ultimately hope and how you get there.”

Mark Wahlberg (who plays Jack Salmon) and Saoirse Ronan (who plays Susie Salmon) in the upcoming film ‘The Lovely Bones.’ Ronan plays the role of a young girl who is murdered and watches from heaven as her family tries to track down her killer. The movie will be released Dec. 11.
Runway offers alternative to buying designer clothing

By TAWNA SOELDNER-DANGER

Two recent Harvard Business School graduates aided the timeless plight by creating Renttherunway.com, a Web site that allows women to rent high-end dresses for one-tenth of the full retail price.

After a night of looking fabulous, the renter is responsible for the dress is returned in complete disarray, the customer places the dress in pre-paid packaging and drops it in the mail for a no-hassle return. Dry cleaning is included in the initial price, but a $5 insurance fee covers most wardrobe mishaps, like a missing button, broken zipper or slight stain. If the dress is returned in complete disarray, the renter is responsible for the full retail price.

Renttherunway.com’s founding members. With the site being invitation-only, Rush is one of Renttherunway’s made the idea of purchasing a designer piece unrealistic. "They offer girls reassurance," co-founder Jennifer Carter Fleiss said.

Renttherunway.com is just what any recessionista needs to survive the holiday season. The Web site also offers a hotline for services, like a missing button, broken zipper or slight stain. If the dress is returned in complete disarray, the renter is responsible for the full retail price.

Jennifer Carter Fleiss
co-founder

Catherine Malandrino is, and probably always will be, a dream. But Renttherunway.com makes dreams a reality for women working on a budget with rentals ranging from $50 to $200 for a four-night loan.

The Web site makes renting a dress easy as ordering a textbook. Customers browse the vast selection of designers, schedule a delivery date and the dress arrives the next day. Just to be safe, included with the dress is a second back-up size, a custom garment bag and a fit kit, including double-sided tape, bra strap adjusters and deodorant stain remover.

If the customer isn’t sure what style she will be feeling that evening, for an additional $25, she can rent a back-up dress.

After a night of looking fabulous, the customer places the dress in pre-paid packaging and drops it in the mail for a no-hassle return. Dry cleaning is included in the initial price, but a $5 insurance fee covers most wardrobe mishaps, like a missing button, broken zipper or slight stain. If the dress is returned in complete disarray, the renter is responsible for the full retail price.

Jenna Rush, a UF advertising senior, stumbled upon Renttherunway.com on a Twitter feed from Glamour.com earlier this semester.

"I was instantly intrigued," she said. "The clothes are incredible, and the prices are reasonable, even for a college student like me."

With Christmas parties just around the corner, winter weddings on the horizon and formals galore, Rush said she wouldn’t normally be able to afford. Co-founder Jennifer Hyman brainstormed the idea during a trip home to New York City. Hyman’s younger and incredibly fashionable sister Becky was stumped on what to wear to a wedding. She hunted through her closet but found nothing that inspired her. Becky’s meek salary as an accessories buyer for Bloomington’s made the idea of purchasing a designer piece unrealistic.

"She felt guilty about buying something new, didn’t want to borrow from a friend and wished there was a way to rent a dress that would have gotten her excited for the event," Carter Fleiss said.

Back at school, the Hymans and Carter Fleiss created many business plans and held a meeting with Diane Von Furstenberg in hopes of getting Renttherunway.com off the ground.

After speaking to more than 1,000 women, Fleiss said that women’s worries evolved into Rent the Runway.

"The Web site gives women the access to the Carrie Bradshaw club," she said. "Girls get to dress up and have fun with fashion. They don’t have to go to Forever21 or H&M and get the knock-off. It’s the best way for designers to get real girls in their clothing."

The co-founders plan to launch accessories in the spring. Carter Fleiss said it will show women how to dress up or down any of the items featured.

They also plan to dabble into profit sharing with the designers, bridesmaid’s products and eventually become international.

"Renttherunway.com is great for girls who are conscious of cost," Carter Fleiss said. "It gives girls who never had the opportunity to wear designers like Just Cavalli, to test out the hot red dress and if she has a great experience in it she’ll want to go out and buy it."
The Guide to DINING OUT

AMERICAN

Café Gardens

For a more casual setting, the Original Fine Cuisine Café Gardens has been a go-to, with delicious food and a large menu. Located just across from campus, Café Gardens features a quasi-lounge establishment with several seating options and a full bar. For more information, call 352-373-3351. Dusty’s West Side Inn, 1038 SW 3rd Ave., Gainesville. 373-8417.

Café Del Sol

Café Del Sol offers a wide variety of South American cuisine. Located across from campus, Café Del Sol provides a relaxing atmosphere with several seating options. For more information, call 352-352-466-3999. Omi’s Kitchen (2124 SW 34th St, Gainesville). 373-0301.

The Melting Pot

The Melting Pot caters to various dietary needs and offers a wide variety of entrees. Located on 34th Street next to campus, The Melting Pot has several seating options and a full bar. For more information, call 352-373-6777. Bento Cafe (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-338-1700.

Mochi Frozen Yogurt

Located on the corner of 34th Street and SW Archer Rd, Mochi Frozen Yogurt offers freshly made, house-made frozen yogurt in a variety of flavors. For information, call 352-352-466-3999. Omi’s Kitchen (2124 SW 34th St, Gainesville). 373-0301.

New Orleans Café

New Orleans Café offers a wide variety of Louisiana cuisine, including po’boys, beignets, and gumbo. Located on 34th Street next to campus, New Orleans Café has several seating options and a full bar. For more information, call 352-373-6777. Bento Cafe (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-338-1700.

Tacos Guanajuato

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Tacos Guanajuato offers a wide variety of Mexican entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Gourmets Delight

Gourmets Delight offers a wide variety of Italian entrees, including pasta, pizza, and calzones. Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Gourmets Delight has several seating options and a full bar. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Asian

Lucky Ginger Sushi

Gelato & Teahouse

Located at 34th St and Archer Rd, Lucky Ginger Sushi offers a wide variety of sushi and sashimi. For more information, call 352-352-466-3999. Omi’s Kitchen (2124 SW 34th St, Gainesville). 373-0301.

Green Mango

Located on 34th Street next to campus, Green Mango offers a wide variety of Thai entrees. For more information, call 352-373-6777. Bento Cafe (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-338-1700.

Bento Cafe

Saffron Indian Kitchen

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Saffron Indian Kitchen offers a wide variety of Indian entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

African

Kabob House

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Kabob House offers a wide variety of Middle Eastern entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

African

Jamaican

Jamaican Food

Located on 34th Street next to campus, Jamaican Food offers a wide variety of Jamaican entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Indian

Gotcha Cafe

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Gotcha Cafe offers a wide variety of Indian entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

American

Pizza

Pizza Pizzari

Located on 34th Street next to campus, Pizza Pizzari offers a wide variety of Italian entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Italian

Sapato's

Located on 34th Street next to campus, Sapato's offers a wide variety of Portuguese entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Mexican

Los Lagos

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Los Lagos offers a wide variety of Mexican entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

Thai

Sawasdee Thai

Located in the Student Union on the University of Florida campus, Sawasdee Thai offers a wide variety of Thai entrees. For more information, call 352-373-8400. The Melting Pot (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-0301.

The Omi’s Kitchen

Thai Express

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German

Schweinekoteletts

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Café Del Sol offers a wide variety of South American cuisine. Located across from campus, Café Del Sol provides a relaxing atmosphere with several seating options and a full bar. For more information, call 352-373-6777. Bento Cafe (34th St and Archer Rd). 373-338-1700.

THAI EXPRESS

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Cursive gets creative

By JON SILMAN

Cursive, an indie-rock band from Omaha, Neb., is playing at Common Grounds on Sunday. The band is on Saddle Creek records, a record label best known for another Omaha act, Bright Eyes. Its latest album, "Mama, I'm Swollen," was released in March, and they played the "Lolate Show with David Letterman" that same month. The Avenue got the chance to talk to bass player Matt Maginn about playing on TV, the band's sound and his favorite Nirvana record.

• So what did it feel like performing on that (Letterman) stage?
  Scary. Frightening. It was intimidating and really f**king cold.

• You seemed to get a pretty good response from him afterward. He said the title of the album and then said "Yowza!"
  I think he was sort of shocked or surprised. He guessed if I'm still having fun, and surviving that being said, I think we collectively decided that the next record we want to completely f**k up. We've been trying to allow some normal influence to come in and not f**k everything up, but that being said, we kind of like the dissonance a lot, and anytime you can make the music sound uncomfortable or different or odd, the better, really.

• OK with that in mind, which Nirvana album do you like better: "Nevermind" or "In Utero?"
  I guess I kinda like "In Utero," for that reason. It's far more aesthetically interesting, more dissonant and somewhere I can really measure success for myself. If you or your friends still like what we record then we're successful.

• What about you personally? How do you measure success for yourself?
  Good question. I don't know. I guess if our friends still like what we record then we're successful.

• What do you measure success for as a band?
  We try to kind of walk a line. We used to do a bit and not be so intentionally counter-intuitive all the time. We've been trying to allow some normal influence to come in and not f**k everything up, but that being said, I think we collectively decided that the next record we want to completely f**k up. We've been trying to mix them both, something more traditional and things that are weird sounding, but now I think we're in the mood to do something really strange.

• How do you measure success as a band?
  No such thing as success. We're just happy to be playing and not have to take a loan out for someone else.

High-tech sex pleases all

By BRANDT WILLIAMS

As any well-educated and well-rounded 20-year-old can tell you, college welcomes those with an irrepressible appetite for knowledge. However, those 20-somethings also comprise the nation's youth – a generation that is enjoying its prime and is fully aware of its sexual abilities. College also welcomes the flirtatious, the scandalous, the irresponsible, the debased and the adorably promiscuous. We jump in and out of one another's beds but often overlook the simpler, STD-free expressions of our sexuality.

This is where technology comes in. Smartphones, text messaging and webcams have broadened not only our communications, but also our sexual horizons. Long-distance couples should be especially thankful for this as it provides an outlet that allows them to get in touch, get off and prevents them from putting out for someone else.

Still, phone and webcam sex is not limited to those who are emotionally committed. Do you remember that Georgia fan you met in Jacksonville, the one who simultaneously blew you and your mind? He or she may live in Athens, but technology can establish a connection for at least one more night. Phone and webcam sex also provides an alternative to intercourse, thereby promoting abstinence. And if abstinence isn't really your game, well, high-tech sex will prove sufficient at teasing your latest crush and his cocky attitude.

It all starts with simple texting, or rather, sexting. Use your BlackBerry or iPhone one night to drop a flirtatious hello. Ask your intended target why he or she is up at such a late hour and what he or she is doing to, err, entertain himself or herself. You'll know pretty quickly if he or she has taken the bait. Just be careful where you leave your phone when sexting; you wouldn't want the talk at Thanksgiving dinner to be why your younger sibling found a text read, "I want to taste your turkey."

Phone sex is where it gets heavier. This requires you to get vocal and not give a damn about what your roommate might be overhearing. Start by discussing what you're not wearing and where you're touching yourself. Progress into what you'd do with your phone buddy if he or she were there – think of Ludacris' lyrics, "whips and chains, handcuffs, smack a little body up with my belt."

Some might consider this prospect awkward or uncomfortable – but that's why a sense of humor is necessary. A little encouragement will further direct the conversation from "but...I don't really know what to say" to "I want you on all fours."

And then there is the webcam. This is best done not with someone met in a chat room but rather someone you know, trust and is of age – jail might not be a word in your vocabulary. Webcam sex is essentially someone watching via an Internet connection while you show off your ass(ets), and milk yourself and trust and is of age...
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**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009 • ALLIGATOR, 15**
Florida will start NCAA play

By ANTHONY CHIANG
Alligator Writer
achiang@alligator.org

After being selected to the NCAA Tournament field for the 19th consecutive season, the Gators should be accustomed to the post-season by now – but that isn’t the case.

Florida doesn’t know what to expect this weekend as it has only played a combined three matches all time under Mary Wise against the teams in its first and second round bracket — College of Charleston, FIU and Miami.

No. 14 UF (23-5, 16-4 Southeastern Conference) will begin the tournament against College of Charleston (18-12, 12-4 Southern Conference) at 7:30 tonight in the O’Connell Center.

Although the Gators and Cougars don’t have too much of a history, the one time they did matchup was in a similar situation – the first round of the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

The unfamiliarity between the four teams comes as a change to the Gators.

“It’s way different. In the SEC you play teams twice,“ opposite hitter Callie Rivers said. “You pretty much know people’s names, numbers and tendencies within the conference. When going into these games you really don’t know anything about the teams.”

Although the players will not have the chance to view mountains of film on the Cougars, coach Mary Wise has spent all week studying UF’s first-round opponent.

From what she has seen, College of Charleston runs a fast offense and block exclusively.

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 19

UF outside hitter Callie Rivers said the NCAA Tournament is quite a change due to the unfamiliarity of opponents.

It’s really too easy being this awesome

Editor’s Note: Graduate student, Palm Beach Post Gators beat writer and reader Ben Volin earned a guest column for winning our inaugural alligatorSports Fantasy Challenge.

So apparently the prize for my outstanding performance and season-long dominance in this little fantasy college football league is to write 500 words for the Alligator.

Awesome. How thrilling.

This is exactly how I should be spending my time this week.

Not, you know, covering the nation’s No. 1 team as it prepares for the Game of the Century, or studying for my MBA exams.

Nope. I’m supposed to sit here and brag or something about beating a bunch of college kids in fantasy football.

Yeah, I won the league. Cool.

Can’t wait to drop that line with the ladies in Midtown.

For both of you that care, I didn’t know existed until Week 2. His name is Blaine Gabbert, and he’s a sophomore quarterback for Missouri who lists sports, hanging out with friends and fishing as his primary hobbies.

Not quite the stuff of Tebow, but he did me well this season as a replacement for Sam Bradford, who I took with the second overall pick and promptly hurt himself for the season in Week 1.

“The Tigers went 8-4, 4-4 in the Big 12, but Gabbert was a champion in my locker room. He finished with 3,302 passing yards, 228 rushing yards, 26 total touchdowns.

SEE VOLIN, PAGE 20

Alabama looks to get revenge for letting ’08 slip away

■ THE CRIMSON TIDE HAVE WON 24 STRAIGHT REGULAR-SEASON GAMES.

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

When the Crimson Tide take the field Saturday, they will not have lost a regular-season game in 743 days.

That will be little consolation for Alabama if it comes up short against Florida in the SEC Championship Game for the second straight year. UA is about to get a second chance against UF, after the Gators pulled away in the fourth quarter of a 31-20 win en route to a BCS National Championship Game appearance.

This year’s winner will again have a chance to play for the national title.

“We got too caught up in the moment,” Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain said. “Our guys got caught up in the pressure and they wanted to be the hero and make the extra effort play instead of just doing what we had to do and doing what our job was.

“If everybody would have just done what they had to do in the fourth quarter instead of getting caught up in the moment, we would have been fine. I think the guys understand that now and everybody is trying to play their role, playing their role the best they can instead of trying to be the hero.”

It has been well-documented that Saturday’s showdown will feature a clash of the nation’s top defenses. The outcome may hinge on which offense can do just enough to pull out the win.

Florida and Alabama have seemed to favor the run this year, with the Gators boasting the SEC’s top rushing offense and Crimson Tide running back Mark Ingram second in the conference in rushing yards per game.

UA quarterback Greg McElroy said the ability to depend on Ingram on defense has been a big help as he develops in his first year under center.

“Ingram has been a great security blanket for all of us in our first years as starters. He’s that solid rock,” McElroy said. “He’s been a guy we can fall back on when we need to grind the clock and a guy that’s gotten off to great starts in games for us.”

Ingram’s superb season has helped the Crimson Tide weather through some of McElroy’s rockier weeks, including a three-game stretch against Ole Miss, South Carolina and Tennessee in which he completed 51.7 percent of his passes, averaged 119.7 passing yards per game and had a total of zero touchdowns and two interceptions.

“There was a huge question mark that everybody had about the quarterback on our team this year,” Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

But Alabama’s closer-than-expected win in the Iron Bowl may have given McElroy a much-needed
The Gators’ season hit an all-time low as they traveled to face Kentucky on Nov. 22.

For the first time in 19 years, they would not win the Southeastern Conference title.

But the disappointment and embarrassment that came with ending Florida’s 18-year streak did not prevent this team from staying focused.

Before the match against Kentucky, junior Collie Rivers made sure that her team knew there was still a lot at stake.

“When I walked into the locker room prior to the (Kentucky) match, she had written on the wall ‘not on our watch,’ and she had every player sign it,” coach Mary Wise said. “That was their rally cry.”

UF went on to dominate Kentucky en route to a four-set victory after losing to the Wildcats less than two months before.

Since falling out of contention for the conference crown, the Gators have looked like a new team.

Wise’s decision to insert middle blocker Lauren Bledsoe into the starting lineup along with the strategic move of using a one-setter offense has rejuvenated the group.

After a devastating loss to Tennessee, which knocked the Gators out of title contention, the changes were made.

UF has reeled off three impressive victories since — two coming against top-25 opponents — as it begins the NCAA Tournament.

“With each win over a top-15 opponent, we prove we belong in the NCAA Tournament,” Bledsoe said.

The Toughest Road Yet

As the Gators begin their journey to the Final Four in Tampa, they will have to look no further than the rough road they’ve traveled this season for some experience.

In the first 18 seasons of Wise’s tenure at UF, she only dropped eight conference matches. This year, the team lost an unprecedented four matches to SEC opponents.

“It has been easily the most competitive season in the SEC because there is so much more parity now,” Wise said.

Three other SEC teams are currently in the top 21 of the RPI rankings and all four of the Gators’ conference losses have come against those teams: Kentucky, LSU and Tennessee.

While UF went undefeated in conference play during the 1992 and 1993 regular seasons and from 1995-2003, Jacekell believes the team used to pay for it in the postseason.

“As being able to learn from our losses early instead of having one of our first losses in the tournament can really help us,” she said. “If we really take it to heart and learn from these losses, it can only make us stronger for the tournament.”

Although conference competition has been tough, nonconference play has been even tougher.

The Gators have faced four nonconference foes ranked in the top 14 of the RPI, including No. 3 Florida State, No. 5 Washington, No. 6 Stanford and No. 14 Notre Dame.

They went 3-1 in those matches, with their only loss coming against Washington early in the season.

“With the experience we have and all the great teams we have played so far, once we get to the tournament we will be better prepared,” senior Elyse Cusack said.

Unmatched Versatility

There were many questions surrounding the setter position after Cindy Batbath transferred from UF before the season began.

But then came junior transfer Brynja Rodgers to fill the void and provide another setter to complement sophomore Kelly Murphy in UF’s 6-2 offense.

Although Rodgers has been consistent and is second on the team with 5.43 assists per set, the Gators have turned to a one-setter offense featuring Murphy for the latter part of the year.

Last season this scheme was not used as a great deal.

The new offense has paid dividends.

When first used against Auburn on Nov. 8, the Gators committed a season-low four attack errors in the match. Against South Carolina on Nov. 27, the offense led to a season-high hitting efficiency of .519.

“I think it’s a lot of fun. It gives different teams a lot to prepare for,” Murphy said. “If one thing is not working out, it lets us know that we always have another option.”

UF’s versatility has led Wise to implement another adjustment.

The home court advantage is something that is really important.

“We said all along that we would not win the Big 10 so it’s nice to have home court advantage,” Murphy said.

But then came junior transfer Brynja Rodgers to fill the void and provide another setter to complement sophomore Kelly Murphy in UF’s 6-2 offense.

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UF’s versatility has led Wise to implement another adjustment.

After the loss to Tennessee, she moved Bledsoe from opposite hitter to starting middle blocker and removed senior Kristina Johnson from the starting lineup.

For most of the season, Bledsoe and Rivers fought for playing time at the right side. By moving Bledsoe, she said it won’t be on the court at the same time.

“By using these players that are versatile enough to play at different positions, it allows us to get all of our playmakers on the court at the same time,” Wise said.

The new middle blocker has led to increased offensive production as Bledsoe has averaged eight kills per match in the three she has played at the position.

Johnson only averaged four before the switch was made.

Both of these late-season shake-ups have helped breathe new life into the team as it heads into a postseason that is structured in the Gators’ favor.

Home Court Advantage

Although UF failed to win the SEC, the Gators have a lot going for them as they begin the tournament.

The SEC title is just in time for Florida for the entire postseason.

The O’Connell Center will host the first and second rounds, as well as regionals. The Final Four will be held in Tampa.

Last year, the Gators had to travel to Colorado for regionals and lost to Stanford. This season, traveling won’t pose a problem for them.

Confidence shouldn’t be an issue either.

UF has beaten two of the tournament’s top-four seeds, No. 3 Florida State and No. 4 Stanford, during the regular season.

All this combined with Wise making the most of the Gators’ versatility and the experience gained from playing in a much-improved SEC will help prepare this team for a run in the postseason.

Wise even believes that the end of the 18 year streak can help the team set its sights on a bigger goal.

“We said all along that we would not win a national championship until we lost the SEC.”

UF Volleyball in the NCAA Tournament under Mary Wise

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>RECORD</th>
<th>NCAA Finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>35-5 (13-1 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>34-2 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Final Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>33-4 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Final Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>28-6 (13-1 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>35-2 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Elite Eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>37-2 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Final Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>34-4 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Final Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>35-3 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Final Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>33-3 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Elite Eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>29-5 (14-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet Sixteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Elite Eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>34-3 (16-0 SEC)</td>
<td>National Runner-Up</td>
</tr>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>36-2 (16-0 SEC)</td>
<td>Second Round</td>
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<td>28-5 (15-1 SEC)</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>33-3 (15-1 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>30-3 (19-1 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>29-3 (19-1 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>27-4 (18-2 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>23-5 (16-4 SEC)</td>
<td>Sweet 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jennifer Warshaver / Alligator Staff
Quick turnaround time leads to limited video study of opponents

VOLLEYBALL, from page 18

exceptionally well.

"Once we get to the tournament we get limited video on each opponent," senior Elyse Cusack said. "We'll really only watch video on them (the Cougars) one time. But then we get the opportunity to scout FIU and Miami for the second round, so we'll see them on video and playing live."

The nonconference schedule has prepared the team well for this situation. In each of UF's first three tournaments of the season, it played two matches against unfamiliar opponents on consecutive days. The key to playing against these types of teams is the ability to make adjustments on the fly, Wise said.

"It's actually more fun because you kind of make an adjustment during the match," Cusack said. "You'll see teams do new things during the match that maybe we didn't see on video, so it's a different challenge."

FOUR GATORS NAMED ALL-SEC: UF may not have won the conference this season, but it was still able to tie for the most players named to All-SEC teams. Kentucky, Tennessee and UF all saw four of its players earn the honor.

UF will look to contain WR Jones

ALABAMA, from page 18

The Gators will rely on their conference-best passing defense to shut down Jones.

"What they do is not necessarily over complicated," McClain said. "It's tough to prepare for in the sense that you can replicate the looks, but it's difficult to replicate the personnel they have." McClain has gone through quite a transformation this season, but whether it will be enough still remains to be seen.

"At the end of the day, you can talk about playing Florida and how you want to beat them," McClain said, "but at the end of the day, you have to go out and prove it."