The Green Gator Guide

How UF is Protecting the Chain of Life
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Meet Some Gators Who Are Putting Nature First
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A "SPURRIER GUY"-TURNED-SURGEON ON GOING FROM JOCK TO DOC Page 74
UF'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

THIS YEAR, UF IS SHINING A LIGHT ON THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS EFFORTS THAT STRENGTHEN YOUR ENVIRONMENT. From technology that could start scientists to possible red tide blooms to studies that inform the best ways to combat invasive species to science that shows how we all can participate in water conservation and anti-pollution strategies, UF faculty are indeed working on the front lines of a myriad of environmental concerns. The following Gators are among those who have generously supported these important endeavors. The Gator Nation thanks them and others not listed here for their noble dedication to our planet and to our university's missions.

LINDA AND KEN MCGURN
The McGurns have played a vital role in the sustainable redevelopment of downtown Gainesville, with a special focus on solar technology. They are longtime advocates of the Florida Museum of Natural History, investing in endowments and UF’s Biodiversity Institute. Their gifts to the institute sponsor seminars, collaborative symposia and research fellowships — all designed to engage biodiversity scientists and potential partners across campus.

JON AND BEVERLY THOMPSON
The state of Florida is a unique laboratory for analyzing the environmental impacts of climate change, and the Thompsons' major investment in 2018 to launch the Thompson Earth Systems Institute created a new platform from which UF can address complex environmental issues. Jon, a former ExxonMobil executive, and his wife, Beverly, are committed to the institute's mission to advance public understanding of how human activity affects our natural environment.

NANCY CONDRON
Pictured here with her daughter, Shelley, Nancy is known for her generosity that transcends her significant support of the construction and development of the Sea Turtle Hospital at UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Biosciences. She is one of Whitney's most dedicated volunteers, patrolling east Florida beaches before sunrise to locate and protect sea turtle nests. Condron’s passion has created a safe haven for sick and injured turtles and a refuge for weak hatchlings.

KELLEY BERGSTROM
UF’s Bergstrom Real Estate Center is on the leading wave of coastal development and resiliency thanks to his major gift. Kelley’s recent investment in the Applied Real Estate Research Program is enabling the center to innovate and develop best practices that will shape the future of the residential and commercial real estate industries while creating sustainable communities for all Florida citizens.

FEATURES

20 Protecting the Chain of Life
An alarming number of animals and plants are going extinct — and UF scientists are scrambling to stop the global catastrophe.

24 A Campus for All Kinds of Weather
Shaded walkways, restored wetlands, water gardens for the rainy season. A new campus plan embraces Gainesville’s nature and brings UF closer to carbon-neutral status.

34 Florida’s First Lady of Archaeology
She was a mother and homemaker until she found her passion in her 40s. At 52, alumna and professor amrita Barbara Pardy is still digging up treasures — and stirring up controversy.

40 Green Gators Guide
Most 12 environmental experts who bleed orange and blue but live green. They share their tips for keeping the planet healthy.

46 GloZell Green, Comedy Queen
Villains of her videos fares can recite her signature line. Find out why the UF alumna and YouTube pioneer is more than “OK.”

DEPARTMENTS

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ON THE COVER
This layered paper model of our planet represents the multifaceted nature of UF's efforts to preserve our world and its inhabitants. Some of the Gators involved include (from left) Florida Museum of Natural History Director Doug Jones, Zoo Miami spokesperson Ron Magill and sustainability advocate Linda and Ken McGurn.
Conversation with Kent Fuchs

AS THIS FALL SEMESTER IS IN FULL SWING IN GAINESVILLE,
UF FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE ALSO MORE ENGAGED THAN EVER ACROSS FLORIDA, THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

If, as the saying goes, the Gator Nation in every state, UF is not far behind. Our faculty and students are more engaged than ever across Florida, the nation and the world.

Today, UF educators are working hard in collaboration with WorldSreach to double the number of classroom sizes and create a network.

Their scientists and engineers are working on new systems to achieve coastal ecosystems, enabling future responses to red tides. And, faculty from all 16 colleges are pursuing hundreds of projects in dozens of countries. In 2017-18, UF professors made more than 4,900 trips to 158 countries for research and education.

These and countless other examples of engagement across a groundbreaking university build on UF’s founding charter to improve people’s lives and contribute to the state and nation.

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But they are also important to our goal of joining the nation’s top 25 public universities and becoming, as it was, an overarching aspiration state, "a premier university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership."

How will we further extend the university’s reach?

The UF/IFAS Extension network has traditionally established UF/IFAS statewide engagement, with extension offices in all 67 counties.

Many years ago, extension agents expanded and trained in agriculture to nutrition and health, financial literacy, promoting natural resources and more. Today, about 600 agents often multidisciplinary faculty work from thousands to Key West.

This unique network provides a model for deepening and diversifying our reach. Already, for example, UF College of Public Health and Health Professions expects to work closely with their counterparts in extension on developing health promotion programs in rural counties in north Florida — service that, like no rural area nationwide, traditionally has for hospital- and health-related services than their urban counterparts.

Extension leaders are now in discussions with College of Art leaders about offering arts education through extension offices in rural schools with an even larger audience. They are exploring ways to build eco- and agro-cultural with College of Health and Human Performance and extension experts.

The College of Engineering in 2016 began establishing its own extension network with UF Innovation Station in Sarasota, a technology and innovation hub. As the college develops these efforts, other UF colleges are seeing even more extension possibilities — perhaps most excitingly, UF Health, which already serves thousands of patients across the state and region in Gainesville, Jacksonville, North Florida and other locations.

New leaders are exploring an expansion of that network in collaboration with UF/IFAS Extension. Indeed, UF/IFAS Extension and UF Health’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute sponsored a conference this spring to discuss partnerships aimed at improving health services and outcomes in rural areas.

IMPROVING EXTENSION'S REACH IS JUST ONE AREA WHERE THE UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS COLLABORATING ON A SYSTEM TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, BUILDING FASTER RESPONSES TO TRENDS, SUCH AS NEW TRAVEL.

IF ENGINEERING ALUMNI HAS ITS OWN EXTENSION NETWORK WITH INNOVATION STATION IN SARASOTA, AND A TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB.

IF HEALTH ALUMNI SERVES THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS ACROSS THE STATE AND REGION.

IF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ARE COLLABORATING ON 5 AM BY MODERN CHALLENGE Ecosystems, BUILDING FASTER RESPONSES TO TRENDS, SUCH AS NEW TRAVEL.

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On balance, the University of Florida is working hard to expand its reach and influence across the state and nation. As we continue to do so, we thank our alumni and friends for their support and commitment. We look forward to sharing more updates in future issues of the Alumni Magazine.

Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.
President
University of Florida
FIELD & FORK: THANKS TO A GENEROUS GIFT, UF’S FOOD PANTRY IS GROWING AND GROWING

UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences students harvest vegetables and fruit for the Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field & Fork Pantry from the program’s Farm and Gardens by Lake Alice before summer crop cuts are planted. Since 2013, the pantry has provided fresh produce and nonperishable food for UF community members who experience food insecurity. Thanks to a leadership gift by the Hitchcocks that helped secure additional funding, a conservation easement acquired the pantry’s facility near McGraw Hall Room and Museum Science Library this summer to make room for more nonperishable food items and fresh produce, a teaching and working demonstration space, and dedicated areas for storage and processing equipment. The revamped space is intended to provide a synergy between ease, support, and education. Support the Field & Fork Campus Food Program at www.ufl.edu/foodlfsp.
UF WINS STATE FUNDING

After submitting numerous state budget requests to the Florida Legislature, UF is happy to have received funding for three big projects:

- **$25M** for the Herbert Werthman College of Engineering's new Data Science and Information Technology Center
- **$11.5M** for a new middle-high school building at P.K. Yonge, the College of Education's developmental research K-12 school
- **$16.4M** to invest in faculty and students to help UF achieve recognition on a Top 3 public university.

In addition, the Leggett Grant supported three projects:

- An upgrade of the WUFY-W2FN broadcasting facility in order to meet FCC standards.
- Construction of a facility to house UF's Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease. Staff here focus on searching and interpreting for central nervous system conditions including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and stroke.
- Worldclass request for LF/ITAS facilities.

HEARD IN CATORVILLE

“Everyone is talking about the pythons in the Everglades. We’re spending all this money to restore the Everglades only to let these pythons ravage all this wildlife? That’s not acceptable.”

— Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis

“Everything I do is for the grace of God. But I’ll forever be in debt to Florida athletics and these people here for what they have done for me.”

— Grant Holloway (LBS)

UF ASSISTS AGRICULTURE-CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Numerous farmers, ranchers and forest land owners have joined UF and conservationists on a work group that aims to improve the quality of Florida’s water, air and soil. Called the Florida Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiative, the newsletter will focus on how to keep agriculture profitable while providing nutritious food, clean energy and ecological services, such as water filtration and carbon sequestration.

Solved from the Land (SFL) is a nonprofit that promotes farm-based solutions to global challenges. It supports the initiative and has partnered with UF/IFAS. The group's second meeting took place in April at UF.

A SUPER SURPRISE

A special surprise for UF Health Shands in May: UF Health Shands Children's Hospital hosted some famous visitors who aimed to put a smile on the faces of long-term pediatric patients. Spider-Man, Captain America, Iron Man and Black Panther came from all directions—from the sky in a UF Health Shands/Cair helicopter and on the ground in a Batmobile, Black Panther, Loki and Thor clothed their fellow superhero. Photograph: Wanda Kirsch
10,303

UF students who graduated in May. One of them was former Gator basketball standout Caymon Berry, who earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering. During his college career, the Academic All-American also earned the 2017 SEC Scholar Man of the Year award. He played with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies this summer on its league team and says he's thrilled to have earned a degree that will help him "get a job in the real world" someday.

1

UF is the only SEC university with 100 or more student-athletes on the academic honor roll during each of the last 10 years.

GEAR UP GATORS!

UF BOOKSTORES
Museum Road & Reitz Union Drive

Order at UFBookstores.com. FREE pick up in store. Don't miss out on sales and new arrivals - visit our homepage and join our email list.

WORLD BUILDERS: UF LAUNCHES A THEMED ENVIRONMENT DESIGN PROGRAM

424

Economic wildlife species that have become uncommon Florida residents. One is the Nile monitor lizard, a sharp- toothed lizard that can grow to 7 feet long. UF/IFAS researchers are working to determine the health of these populations, which are critical for local bird, fish and small mammal populations.

Real estate development, museums and exhibitions, retail, dining and entertainment venues, theme parks and cruise ships. These facilities are often designed around a theme, such as a tropical paradise, the Wild West or a medieval kingdom.

UF's College of Design, Construction and Planning is launching a new graduate-level program that brings together all the expertise needed to create such a themed environment. And the program's new leader is in the industry. Susan Gunz, a 25-year veteran of Walt Disney Imagineering.

"He has a tremendous wealth of knowledge on themed environments and is committed to developing the next generation. We are excited about his vision and plans for the program," said JCP Dean Chinmay Anand.

The master's in environmental studies with a concentration in themed environment integration launched this fall at the college's CityLab-Orlando location. A graduate certificate option is also available. Through internships and courses from the field, students will have unprecedented access to global leaders in the themed environment industry. As the program grows, other UF colleges, such as engineering and the arts, will be able to contribute expertise and resources.

COMMENCEMENT 2.0

The final report of UF's task force that evaluated commencement practices was released this summer. Some of its recommendations are to engage a tough manager for the university-wide ceremony, add a title in ceremony presentations to ensure student names are pronounced correctly and add more events leading up to the weekend to emphasize the community's collective achievement. UF has already implemented many of the group's suggestions. The full report can be read at https://bit.ly/commencement.
11 WAYS TO REPEL MOSQUITOES

Improve your backyard activities with these tips from UF's mosquito experts: medical entomologist Jonathan Day and urban entomologist Roberto Pereira (PhD '96).

1. BE COOL. Mosquitoes are more attracted to carbon dioxide released in your exhalation. Drink plenty of fluids and eat foods like bananas that make your breath smell fragrant.

2. AVOCADO MEALTIME. Mosquitoes are more active at dusk and dawn when humidity is high and wind speed is low.

3. CREATE A BREEZE. Wind currents above the head make it difficult for mosquitoes to track your scent. Use a fan or open a window to create a breeze.

4. USE DIET. Avoid drinking carbonated drinks, alcoholic beverages, and foods that are rich in protein. These attract mosquitoes.

5. GET NATURAL. For DIET-sensitive people, try citronella, lemongrass, eucalyptus, or lavender essential oils.

6. WATCH WHAT YOU WEAR. Mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors. Wearing lighter colors can help deter them.

7. SLOW YOUR BREATH. When breathing fast, mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide. Alcoholic beverages and tropical fruits can increase the concentration of CO2 in your breath.

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"A picture could solve everything."
—BRETT TAYLOR, CANCER SURVIVOR and recovering professional who used photography to tell his story.
$3.4M
Amount of a five-year National Institute on Drug Abuse grant for UF Pharmacy researcher Nan-Hua He’s new smartphone app improves upon his successful telerehabilitation app designed to retrain a group of 120 participants.

$320,000
Amount the Edward Volney combination of UF/IFAS Extension offices, north Florida faculty and university colleges.

5 YEARS
Length of a UF research grant that will investigate nuclei of the brain and develop a model for predicting death and injury of hospitalized older adults who are at a higher risk for falls and delirium. The National Institutes of Health awarded the project a $2.07 million grant.

16
Number of UF researchers who are searching for the next College of Veterinary Medicine dean.

1980
Year Zora Neale Hurston died.

A Legacy Plucked from the Flames
When Zora Neale Hurston died in 1960, the publishing world was abuzz with her stories. They were being burned outside her Port Pierce home when a fire destroyed them. The following year, Hurston’s neighbor donated the papers, which include letters, photographs and even an unpublished manuscript, to the Smathers Libraries at UF.

The collection has grown since then, with contributions from Hurston’s friends and colleagues. Today, students, researchers or anyone who requests to see these items—about a thousand in total—can feel the pulse of the celebrated writer of “Their Eyes Were Watching God.”

See a video about the collection at bit.ly/strhr-legacy
A WALK ON THE WILD(LIFE) SIDE
RENOURED UF ECOLOGIST SAYS LONG-TERM STUDIES ARE KEY TO FINDING BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

How wild is your work?
A. My interests are diverse but loosely centered around understanding wildlife processes both for their own sake and as guides to recreation and conservation activities.

What professional tools do you use most?
A. Because I work in wetlands, my go-to are boats — motorboats, jet boats, air boats — and unmanned aerial vehicles — things that help me get to places that just plain difficult to reach.

Describe a revelation from your work.
A. When wading birds turned out to be strongly associated with drawdown. This turned out to be an enormous piece of information for trying to manage large wetlands like the Everglades. Many people said, “Dry it out!” as a way of stimulating birds, but that’s not how it works. Then many people said, “Lick it!” because if you have more water you have more fish. That was wrong because you get all predatory fish. It was the intermediate that really mattered. That advice came about after analyzing 130 years worth of records analyzed by my predecessors.

Are you really an ecologist?
A. I always tell my students they better go into any room with at least seven cats. I guess my hair would be entomology, zoology, animal behavior, wetland ecology and a few areas.

Advice for students?
A. Stick with something long-term. The systems that we study have long memory through evolution of species. I’ve been working in the Everglades for 30 years. We’re only just now starting to see some of the real payoffs, and much of that is drawing on studies from 90 and 100 years ago. So, if you think you’re going to make a mark, know that mark is going to be more and more valuable over time.

What conservation issues have you worked on?
A. Everglades restoration. In part because it’s about where you put water and who all the water users are. The Everglades had tremendous resilience in the past because it fluctuated naturally. Because we’re now added 21 users groups for all the water — that either want it to be too wet or too dry — we are now attempting to manage in an impossible situation. Also, oyster reef restoration... because some people want you to remove as they fish the reef, and others want the ecological benefits. Ecology is an unavoidable aspect, but that doesn’t mean we won’t provide a lot of answers.

— RHETT BARKER (BS ’19)
GATOR TAKES HIS FAKE FAMOUS COMEDY SHOW ON THE ROAD

Barry K. Naylor II (BACHEL 97) performed his Fake Famous Comedy Show in University Auditorium during homecoming festivities. The show featured impressions of UF alumni icons.

Naylor says his comedy career was born from rejection. Although his comedy career was growing, UF decided to book him for one campus event, telling him he was “not famous enough.”

Since then, he teamed up with Trey Pond (EAA 11) and others to launch the Fake Famous Comedy Show, which is on a 24-city tour. In each city, the tour features black-owned businesses and community organizations to channel some show proceeds into action plans for local neighborhoods and schools.

A documentary about Naylor’s journey, titled “Famous For Real,” will be released in the spring.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE

SEEN THE WORLD

UF’s annual International Center Global Culture Photo Contest winners were announced in August. Malaysian massage therapist Yen Lee was one of the winners. Her image titled “From her trip to Sri Lanka, India, and China” will be on display in UF’s College of Medicine. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff can submit images at http://bit.ly/1yg7pB6.

The UF Human Resource’s Summer Hotshots photo contest winners were also announced. Right is FILE PHOTO/UF

GATOR NATION MOURNS THE PASSING OF MR. TWO BITS

One of UF’s most well-known honorary alumni, George E. Thrush, died July 2. Better known as Mr. Two Bits, he has been a fixture at UF’s football games at a 1949 home game. Over the next 60 years, Florida fans followed his lead by encouraging student-athletes in every sport with the chant, “Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar, all for the Gators, stand up and hold em’!”

Although the WWII veteran and Tampa insurance agent retired from teaching the cheer at home football games in 2008, his fans continued his tradition. Today, Gator celebrities are invited to perform the cheer while clad in Edmonds’s signature yellow shirt and orange- and blue-striped tie. In addition to contributing enthusiasm and positivity, Edmonds and his wife, Jane, 85, gave several donations through the years that will forever support UF scholarships through a scholarship endowment. Mr. Two Bits was 97.

“All of Gator Nation will remember George for his enthusiasm, dedication, and love for Florida.”

— JEREMY FOLEY, UF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS

1975 football scene, captured by Reed Gain (BSER 76)

A Legacy of Positivity, Passion and Pride

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AN ALARMING NUMBER OF ANIMALS, PLANTS AND INSECTS ARE GOING EXTINCT — AND UF SCIENTISTS, JOINED WITH CONCERNED PHILANTHROPISTS, ARE SCRAMBLING TO STOP THE GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC

MEXICO'S CENTRAL HIGHLANDS thrum in gold each winter when the monarch butterflies arrive. Hundreds of millions migrate to forests there in one of nature's most spectacular phenomena. Their Talking Image is an annual rite of passage, a journey of a thousand miles, with butterflies appearing in the Florida Keys and the Carolinas, and then in the Midwest and Canada, and finally to the Gulf Coast. But the butterflies' journey is not without challenges. In recent years, the butterflies have struggled to survive, due to habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.

"We hope UF can present fact-based research that will be persuasive to our leaders in the state so that we can survive climate change." — Lindy McGeary (BSBA '73, JD '76)

10 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMALS
- African Elephant
- Black-footed Ferret
- Black-footed Ferret
- Black-footed Ferret
- Black-footed Ferret
- Black-footed Ferret
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"We hope UF can present fact-based research that will be persuasive to our leaders in the state so that we can survive climate change." — Lindy McGeary (BSBA '73, JD '76)
“We’re looking at the long term, and the university is in it for the long run. What we do today is very important for generations to come.”
— KENN MCGUIN (
G3A’72, MDA’72, PhD’82)

“Why do we do today is very important for generations to come,” he explains. “If we don’t recognize some of the bad things we’re doing, we can’t correct them.”

Along with Mexico, the McGuins have been to Panama, Costa Rica, and the Galápagos Islands with UF scientists for fossil diggs and explorations. Those experiences have deepened their commitment to the conservation.

“When you dig up something that’s 10,000 years old, a kind of pan euphemistic in semantics,” Ken McGuin says.

“Everything is so well-preserved,” Linda McGuin adds. “We’ve learned how fragile the environment is. If we kill all of the birds in the middle of our country, butterflies might not make it—and everything just starts cascading.”

30 OF THE MOST ENDANGERED PLANTS

- Bahia Tree
- Monkey Pudding Tree
- Dragon Tree
- Baas Dentritic
- Cork
- Underwood
- Australian Orchid
- Venus Flytrap
- Sheep’s Head
- Great Sticker Plant
- Wheterlaugh Mistletoe

Source: Center for Biological Diversity

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY? AND WHY ITS IMPORTANT

The variety and abundance of plants and animals in a given area define its environmental health. Each plays a critical part, and interactions can be surprisingly— not only for the habitat but also for humans. That delicate mix is known as biodiversity.

FLORIDA’S FRAGILE SPECIES

Florida’s ecosystems include more than 3,000 plant species, and the state supports the highest concentrations of ecologically sensitive, threatened or endangered species in the country. In the water near the coast, the estuarine and lagoon species. More than half the plant life in South Florida is marine, thriving that tasty balance out of which.

EXTINCTION BY THE NUMBERS

21 Direct loss of reptiles in the world
dominated by iguanas and crocs.
68 Percent of native plant species
drastically reduced
251 Bird species in the United States
critically endangered
700 Invasive North American
tropical insects, fish, and mammals
1,131 At risk of extinction
6,300 Amphibians, reptiles, and 1.3 million
threatened species, of which 300 are endangered

SOURCE: Center for Biological Diversity

SAVE THE BEES

Worldwide bee populations are declining. Ibex, the pollinator, has been an essential part of the ecosystem. The pollinator is a key pollinator of many wild plants. The bee population has been declining in the United States and the world through research and education.

12 WAYS TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY AT HOME

- PLANT A BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Add plants for both adult butterflies and their larvae (neotens). (caterpillars) to your yard. (They feed on different types of plants.)
- PROVIDE BIRD FEEDERS, AND BAT HOUSES: Keep feeders clean and research the type of house and find that work for you.
- REMOVE INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS: About 1.7 million acres of Florida’s remaining natural areas have been invaded by exotic plants. (They destroy native natural habitats every year without development.
- MANAGE PETS: Cats are expert hunters, and dog owners can’t kill a wide variety of wildlife species. And it goes without saying—don’t release parakeets, iguanas, turtles, or other pets into the wild.
- CONSERVE CONSUMERS: The less you buy, the less habitats are destroyed to manufacture products, and the less is thrown away in landfills. Reduce items as often as possible and learn to compost. Your local government has recommendations.
- HELP OUT: Support your local park by visiting, donating, or volunteering. Participate in cleanups to remove garbage and invasive species from natural areas.
“IT’S IMPORTANT THAT THE UNIVERSITY’S OUTDOORS ARE AS AWE-INSPIRING AND IMPRESSIVE AS THE ACADEMICS TAKING PLACE INDOORS.”
— CHARLIE LANE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

A CAMPUS FOR ALL KINDS OF WEATHER

SHADES WALKWAYS, RESTORED WETLANDS, WATER GARDENS FOR THE RAINY SEASON. A NEW PLAN EMBRACES GAINESVILLE’S NATURE AND BRINGS UF CLOSER TO CARBON NEUTRAL STATUS.

BY DAVID FINNERTY
A mammoth landscaping project

will turn some roads into footpaths, sidewalks into shaded trails. Intersections into social corners and entrances into welcoming gateways. Native grasses and shrubs will be reintroduced. Water gardens will collocate into flowers will be abundant. Wild spaces — creeks and ponds, wetlands and woods — will be restored to their natural grandeur. River benches, bike racks, trash cans, drinking fountains, streetscapes and simple tree gasses will be upgraded.

When all is done and the last sods are placed to the site, UF's 2,000-acre campus will be another step closer to a "green" footprint, and UF officials add, more reflective of one of the nation's premier universities.

"It's important that the university's users understand the green campus," says Charlie Laidre, UF's chief operating officer. "If we want to be a leader in academics, which we are, we need to be a leader in the environment and to our students. That's our responsibility and it's what this plan is all about."

Being green has always been in UF's plan. Back in 1995 when architect William Edwards designed UF's campus, he pictured a sprawling lawn as its heart. That central space became the university's town square, the Plaza of the Americas. UF's new green plan is just one of several elements in the university's 15-year strategic plan. But it will be the most visible. With it, as Central Park in New York and the National Mall in Washington, D.C., are the backyards of those cities, UF's outdoor spaces will be gathering places and escapes for Gators.

"One of the things that makes UF's campus special is how naturally it is. In spring, when azaleas are in bloom, there aren't many places more pleasant than this university," he says. "New landscaping and outdoor resources will make campus even more for students and guests to enjoy — and during all four seasons."

TOWER PLAZA The north end of Newell Drive will disappear to create an enormous courtyard stretching from Turlington Hall to the Music Building. With Century Tower at the western end, there will be plenty of outdoor seating with places for gathering and performances.
the plan at a glance

Purpose: Make campus more inviting, eco-friendly and sustainable; encourage town and gown integration; accommodate transportation options (from buses to feet); develop a cohesive campus image; honor the university’s natural setting and environmental heritage.

Process: University leaders sought input from alumni, academic, professional, staff, Gatorwalk residents and landscape architects, identified needs and priorities, and worked with professional landscape designers to create a blueprint.

Timeline: This two-phased approach begins this year and is part of UF’s overall master plan. Leaders say the project should be completed in 10-15 years.

Cost: $27 million.

Seven priority projects:

1. NE Campus Gateway
   - A transformed Gator Court creates a walkable link between the campus and downtown Gainesville, announcing the campus welcoming the casual visitor and maximizing access to the pedestrian-centric campus beyond the circular drive at the end of Union Walk.

2. Union Walk
   - The conversion of Union Walk to a pedestrian pathway will be a transformative step that removes the division between the streets of the university and the open space surrounding University Auditorium. This reconfiguration will greatly increase the amount of continuous open space on the campus.

3. Tower Plaza
   - The conversion of Tower Plaza to a pedestrian corridor, the area around Century Tower, University Hall and CDE Building/Science Library will become a grand plaza. The widening of Union Drive to an unobstructed view will open the pedestrian and vehicular access to the University Hall and Science Library.

4. Gator Plaza
   - A new gateway to Heald Drive will launch a major pedestrian way through the heart of the campus. This gateway will frame one of the most exciting views of the campus.

5. Newell Gateway
   - A new gateway at Heald Drive will launch a major pedestrian way through the heart of the campus. This gateway will frame one of the most exciting views of the campus.

6. Stadium Lawn
   - Like Gator (Corner) Plaza, this area is the corner of the campus and is required to wear two hats. For seven Saturdays of the year, the space is used to house a half of gameday armchairs. For the rest of the year, the space is used to house a half of gameday armchairs.

7. Inner Road
   - The transformation of the campus core to a pedestrian route is achieved through the clear redefinition of vehicular traffic to better serve the campus.

a more walkable campus

For decades, the heart of campus has been open to vehicle traffic. However, this plan proposes to restrict cars and buses in an effort to maintain the pedestrian experience.

Once complete, the changes will better connect two of the university’s major pedestrian zones: the Plaza of the Americas and the Reitz Union areas. In the illustration at left, the areas highlighted in blue will encompass an 86.6 acre pedestrian-only zone. Note the narrowed zones for walkways and bike lanes that will reduce trip times.

Curbside bike walkways will improve navigation for all Gators and allow for the elimination of redundant sidewalks. Native and flowering plants will enhance the appearance of the area. And most importantly, upon completion, Century Tower will be a safer walk, more pleasant five-minute walk from 13th Street or the Reitz Union.
"THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF UF AND GAINESVILLE SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH A FAMILY OF ATTRACTIVE WELCOMING PORTALS."
— UF LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

INNER ROAD AND NEWELL GATEWAY
With the closing of Union Road and the creation of a green around Century Tower, inner road (currently one-way, single lane) will be converted to two-way traffic, allowing cars and buses to enter and leave from the southern end of campus. Two-lane sidewalks and bicycle lanes will enhance the international corridor Newell Gateway (below) on the west side of the Plaza of the Americas will extend access to and from University Avenue.
STADIUM LAWN
This gathering hub will be turned into a green space worthy of UF’s winning tradition. The intersection of Gator Landing Drive and Weill University Avenue will shift westward to align with a neighboring off-campus streets, improve traffic flow and create a lawn’s view. Deck Gallahar will be three-across the lawn.

GALE LEMERAND
The northernmost block of Gale Lemerand Drive must reflect the needs of daily use by the UF community, as well as the unique characteristics that it plays on fall game days.

ON SEVEN SATURDAYS THE AREA BECOMES THE FOCUS OF GAMEDAY ACTIVITY."
— UF LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
FINING BARBARA PURDY

She was a trailing spouse — a mother and homemaker — until she found her passion in her 40s. At 92, Florida's first lady of archaeology is still digging up treasures — and stirring up controversy.

Story by Barbara Drake Photography by Aaron Daye

If you're looking for mysteries, don't go to the heavens. Look beneath your feet — about 60 to 140 centimeters deep, specifically — in the dark clay of north-central Florida.

That solution has been a driving force for half a century for local expert Barbara Purdy (BS O '71), professor emerita of anthropology at UF, curator emerita at the Florida Museum of Natural History and one of the most innovative figures in American archaeology.

Once her days as a doctoral student at UF, Purdy has been maniacally digging in Florida woods, swamps and lakes to uncover clues of long-lost civilizations. She's discovered a massive Paleoindian weapons-making site in Marion County, analyzed fossils to confirm early Floridians walked alongside giant extinct beasts, and unearthed more prehistoric dog, not more than anyone else in the state.

And she accomplished all this in her 40s and beyond, after two decades as a stay-at-home mom of four kids.

Today, despite two early bouts with cancer, the 92-year-old Gainesville resident shows no signs of slowing down. She's still conducting fieldwork. And she's still getting head-to-head with naysayers who pooh-pooh her theories about the original settling of the Americas.

"I'm a fighter," she says.

HISTORIC TOOL MAKING EXPERT Barbara Purdy stands amid her favorite Marion County dig site. Behind her is a large piece of chert (hard rock) she nicknamed "Palo Dog." Her research indicates it was shaped by early modern humans more than 20,000 years ago, a whopping 6,500 years before the date long identified as the original settling of Florida. Purdy's longtime volunteer dig assistants (from left) are Mike Berbenek, Don Munroe, Ray McGe and (not pictured) Jerry Kottke and Jim Tarum.
“She’s dynamic,” said UF anthropology professor Bruce MacFadden, FAHA, distinguished curator at the university’s Museum of Florida History. “She has a wonderful ability to obviously tell you things and an intensity of focus.”

Her energy is contagious,” agreed Kathryn Foltz, (MA ’16), a former student of Purdy who now supervises Manatee Village Historical Park in Bradenton. “She challenges the field to keep an open mind.”

**THE CLOVIS CONTROVERSY**

Purdy belongs to a growing group of researchers who question the Clovis-first hypothesis that dominated U.S. archaeology for decades. It posits the first Americans were the Clovis people — named for a site near Clovis, N.M. — who migrated across the Bering Strait and followed the American Indians through the Americas around 12,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age.

Recently, however, archaeologists have dug up many sites that appear to predate Clovis, including Monte Verde, Chile (14,500 to 18,500 years old). Scientists believe humans came to the Western Hemisphere by sea, not by land. In 2012, a pair of archaeological authors called a site with “Arcaum Atlantico,” which lays out considerable evidence for Neandertal ancestors followed American eastern ancestors 20,000 years ago.

But even if Clovis lived, it’s difficult to date the stone objects they used as evidence. And results often are frequently overestimated, Purdy fully knows. She’s been talking the heat since the ’70s for her dissertation that Florida was settled way before Clovis, an idea that now has the support of others in the Southeast.

“There’s still much more research and analysis to be done,” she said. “But thermal luminescence [testing] has shown some of the sites I’ve been to might be 25,000 to 30,000 years old. The marks on the stone indicate they were probably shaped by humans.”

A TRAILING SPOUSE SOARS

Born in San Diego in 1927, Purdy earned a bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine from the University of California at Davis in 1948. Later that same year, she met Louis Robert (Bob) Purdy, the son of an air force pilot stationed at the University of California at Berkeley. They were married in 1954.

“I was 40 years, one week, and one day old when we arrived in Gainesville,” she says, the precise age etched in her consciousness like a fossil preserved in stone.

During the ’50s and ’60s, Purdy devoted herself to raising their four children, along with her career. As a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley, Purdy studied prehistoric stone tools and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in anthropology.

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"I loved playing bridge, but I didn’t want to play it every afternoon of my life after the last kid got into school."

When Purdy presented her findings to the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), most attendees were impressed but suspected a few knew her well enough to offer support. "My suggestions of similarity were not unreasonable," said Purdy. Reluctantly, she returned to Florida at the 1978. It wasn’t as if she was the light of day for four decades.

PREHISTORIC MEETS HIGH-TECH

Purdy did much of her groundbreaking work in wetlands archaeology in the 1980s and 1990s, culminating in the 2000s, with the discovery of 150 paleontological specimens in Marion County, Florida, the largest such site in the world.

Over the years, Purdy would call on her UF colleagues in the departments of earth, geology, materials science, engineering, and nuclear engineering to help shape an interpretation of the artifacts she found.

With the FNANH's MacPhee, she used rare earth element analysis on ancient human skeletons from Vero Beach to show modern humans had entered Florida with great mobility and understanding of the role of fire. Their 2012 findings received an uneasy-long debate about whether the skeleton was of an earlier species or one of the earlier species originally found with them. They also compared forensic traits to determine the age of an archeological age bone discovered by an unknown archeologist near Vero Beach. Tests revealed the bone and carved image to be about 3,000 years old (though Purdy confirmed that further analysis is needed to confirm the pieces’ authenticity).

"This is an incredibly exciting story," said co-author Dennis Sutphin in a statement. "There are hundreds of depictions of prehistoric sites (animals) in the rock art on cave walls and carved images in Europe, but none from America — until now.

"BRIDGE, GRANICHS, CHILDREN . . . AND DOGS"

Today, Purdy's imprint on archeology is well known. Her 75 published articles, and awards from the International Conference on Wetlands Archaeology and the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and FAS (the organization was organized by her previous hypothesis).

Wild in 2015, Purdy enjoys showing her many grandchildren how to play blood, using a model mouse and a piece of wood in her home office. "Very, very exciting," she said. She also established an archeological research endowment at the FNANH specifically for prehistoric studies.

But even though she’s now a regular on the Gainesville senior bridge circuit, she’s nowhere near retired. Still active in conferences and fieldwork, she’s not giving up. "I love the excitement of the unknown," she said. "I'm not giving up."

Today, she is easy to find the conference "unacknowledged." She got dressed in a beautiful dress and seated in a chair. "I love playing bridge, but I didn’t want to play it every afternoon of my life after the last kid got into school."

"That color was it," she said. "I wanted to play bridge, but I didn’t want to play it every afternoon of my life after the last kid got into school."

"I still enjoy the bridge," she said. "I still enjoy the bridge."

"I just want to keep going."
Green Gators Guide

These 12 environmental experts bleed orange and blue, but they live green. We asked them to share their everyday tips for keeping the planet healthy.

Compiled by David Finnerty

Ask Before You Aid

The Expert: Beth Schuder Alberti
(JDA '92, MA '14, PhD '16), CEO of the advocacy group 4P (Global)

Americans are some of the most health-conscious in the world, but our goodwill isn’t always good. In Honduras in 2010, for example, a cargo plane delivering medical supplies to hurricane victims collapsed because the terrain was covered with boxes of un-requested donations. Following Hurricane Irma, clothes and other donated goods were left on Florida’s beaches and buried in garbage dumps.

"During times of a crisis or disaster, don’t assume," says Alberti. "My first trip to Haiti, I brought over 300 cases of donated food, only to find out I have less but it’s better. I found that local economy with survival strategy.

For more information: 4pby4p.org

Recycle Soap

The Expert: Nana Lashkari, founder of the international non-profit Eco-Soap Bank

Recycled hotel soap is used each day instead of throwing it away. If you want to participate, visit Eco-Soap Bank. The organization collaborates with hotels to collect waste and send them to Eco-Soap Bank.

For more information: ecosophabank.org

Turn the Lights Off for Turtles

The Expert: Karen Bjornstad (PhD '90), director of the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research

We humans are making life tough for sea turtles. Seawalls, plastics, streetlights and even beach chairs that block the petchalks take to the sea waves, leading to the death of these gentle creatures. Five of the world’s seven sea turtle species nest on Florida’s beaches, and all five are listed as threatened or endangered.

To do your part, Bjornstad recommends:

- Night beach camping, trail walks, jetties, sandbags and other constructions designed to hold back the ocean can stop turtles from reaching nesting spots.
- Let nature be. Those vegetated dunes on the back of beaches protect nests.
- Pick up your trash. Plastic bags and straws, fish gear (especially monofilament line) and other garbage in water are mistaken for food or get tangled around necks and flippers.
- Keep nesting beaches dark. Moonlight guides hatchlings to the sea; porch lamps and other artificial lights disorient the newborns and draw them away from the waves.

For more information: accrc.ufl.edu
BREATHE EASIER, GO ELECTRIC

THE EXPERT: Richard Heimlich (BS '64), a research scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver.

The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution caused 4.3 million deaths in 2016. The good news is we can limit the pollutants in our lungs, Heimlich says.

- Open your windows. The fresh flow in can boost your comfort level.
- Install a vent-a-hood in the kitchen to capture cooking fumes.
- Use a vacuum cleaner that collects and filters dust.
- When using products containing solvents, work outside or wear protective equipment and ventilate. A dust mask does not stop exposure.

For vacektor.com, make-electronic.com or baking-pancakz.com.

For more information openssl.gov

SAVE THE REEFS, PLANT NATIVES

THE EXPERT: Kelly Cummings (MS '05), a coral biologist for the National Park Service.

Coral reefs are a marvel of biodiversity and climate. For local children, reef restoration is a shield against hurricanes and bleaching. But don’t tell them that, Cummings says. Coral is an animal that slowly builds up unlimited solutions into the reef: uninvited fish and other marine life, she says. As all animals, coral can get sick, she warns—one of the worst diseases outbreaks can record is causing Florida’s reefs.

To enjoy reefs without doing harm, Cummings suggests using reef-safe sunscreen, distancing from reefs with a drone and exploring underwater tours. Always leave the reef where it is and limit their full consumption.

“People travel all over the world to see our reefs,” Cummings says. “We want to be able to enjoy them as long as possible.”

For more information on the National Park Service, go to nps.gov/reco or coastalreef.org.

WALK THE WETLANDS

THE EXPERT: Bill Mitch (MS '72, PhD '77), director of Everglades Wetland Research Park in Naples.

Wetlands are nature’s lifeline and one of the animal kingdom’s favorite Supermarkets—“a place where fish go to see or be seen,” Mitch says. White cranes are just one of a list likely about exploring them, we should do. “The lord’s way to know a wetland is to walk in a wetland. You must sink and grow older.”

If you don’t want to get wet, boardwalks are common in many popular wetlands, such as Florida’s Everglades. “Boardwalks have allowed millions of people to appreciate the beauty of wetlands without worrying about getting into the muck,” Mitch says.

For more information on nps.gov/edu or everglades.com.

FIND COMMON GROUND

THE EXPERT: Ned Kessell (BA '73), an artist based in Washington, D.C., whose paintings and Sculptures that reflect awareness of the environment have been exhibited around the country.

“Part of what I love about art is its nonverbal ability to communicate the language barrier,” Kessell says.

For the community among us interested in having thoughtful conversations about the environment, he offers these conversation tips:
- Avoid words that are emotionally charged.
- Focus on local visible (an artist’s future it lead to visually) approach from a helpful angle (persuading, billogging or sharing doesn’t help; have clear facts and contours available when asked, and be prepared to provide suggestions on things all of us can do to help.

“Realize how a unique talent to lead to out there,” she says.

For more information on nedkessell.com.

GET THE KIDS OUTSIDE

THE EXPERT: Ralene Anderson (MBA '96, MGAS '05) teacher at LEF’s E. K. Virginia Developmental Research School.

“Your won’t protect your country, and you won’t love what you don’t know,” Anderson says. “So be good stewards of the Earth, we need to get good teachers, she says.

To encourage young people to embrace the environment, Anderson suggests taking them together in the woods, transplanting in spring and signing up for citizen science initiatives.

“We get children short when you brand them as animals or depressed,” she says. “Many of the young people know the most passionate, dedicated, literacy and illustrated stories that our environment could have. It may our culture or knowledge that would teach young people to live better.”

For more information on yknights.com.
TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU’LL EAT

THE EXPERT: Anna Prisinz (MS ‘03), directs the Food and Dairy Science program for the IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Americans waste 30 to 40 percent of our food—food that took a lot of resources to produce and deliver. Estimators are that as much as 60 percent of our water usage is for agriculture, and moving those resources from food to other products costs far more than 25 percent of our household expenditures.

“Our actions have real effects,” says Prisinz.

To be kinder to the environment (and to your consequences), don’t be too quick to toss out meal or buy items that don’t have a quick damage. Instead, make sure that they’re being eaten when they’re at their peak flavor, while protecting the environment. “I’ve seen people who are in the habit of throwing away food, while protecting the environment, while protecting the environment,” she notes.

To capture the distinct wildlife moment, she advises keeping your eyes open. “At my desk, I see wildlife looking at me, while protecting the environment, while protecting the environment,” she says.

For more information: floridafood.org

CAPTURE NATURE

THE EXPERT: Jim Maglisi (BA ’04), communications director of Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens.

One way to connect with nature is to capture it in photos, says Maglisi. “One of the benefits is that it takes you out to the nature and allows you to see the world from a different perspective.”

To capture the different wildlife moment, he advises observing the behavior, maintaining a respectful distance, and respecting your movement and sound. “It’s an excellent observer with around patience,” he says.

For more information: miami-zoo.org

YOU BETTER SHOP AROUND

THE EXPERT: B pandit (MAARC ’02), co-founder of the sustainability-focused food company Alvin Eco.

Depreciating on what you’re buying for your purchase could be a budgeted infeasibility. They case into a layer of plastic, then encased in another layer of plastic. “It’s essential for consumers to support companies with strong sustainability platforms,” he adds. For instance, look for items labeled Fair Trade Certified. “It’s also important to look at the packaging your food comes in, and how they use recyclables or compostable or recyclable packaging,” he says.

For more information: alvineco.com

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT


We’re dedicated to an economic model that fosters immediate action and long-term environmental health. Currenza says, “To survive the looming climate emergency, we need to build a better world based on the goal of sustainable well-being for humans and the rest of nature.”

That means pursuing alliances among governmental, academic, and non-governmental organizations. To do that, he says, “be a green champion while led into the Greater Challenging Peacemakers, and join the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.”

For more information: wellbeingeconomy.org
GLOZELL GREEN,
COMEDY QUEEN

"Is you OK? Is you good?"
Millions of fans of her viral videos can repeat her signature line.
As for herself, this UF alumna and YouTube pioneer is more than OK.

BY BARBARA DRAKE

"OK, so I forget what kind of February this is, but it is " cousin GloZell Green as she clutches a small orange-yellow fruit in front of the camera.

You don't need the video's title, "Hot Pepper Challenge," to guess what happens next. The comedian takes a few bites, mimes her "snarl" and begins gagging and spitting habanero like a human magnet. Museum visitors, off-screen, her husband unhelpfully offers ways, not able to prolong her torment and add a-ha. "OMG, she is hallucinating" commented one fan.

"It's funny because it's true."

"Hot Pepper Challenge" has accrued over 50 million views since the YouTube debut in June 2012. In just one of 2,000 plus videos including "The cinnamon Challenge," "Kylie Jenner Challenge" and spots of Top 40 lyrics — that have generated GloZell more than 4,7 million channel subscribers and 1 billion views, earning her the title "The Queen of YouTube.

Forbes, People, "Entertainment Tonight" and The New York Times have profiled her comedic talents and massive social-media reach, and in 2015, she was invited to interview President Barack Obama at the White House. It was medically a serious event, but for GloZell, there were a couple side-splitting mishaps she shared with other comedians.

Fans often assume GloZell Green is a naturally funny person who loves clowning for the camera. We know she's a shockingly talented musician and actress, with degrees in theater performance (BFA, '07) from the University of Florida.

Yes, the YouTube superstar is a Gator — and she bled orange and blue.

"I just want to say... it's great... to be... a Florida Gator!" she sang over the phone in her sick, anyway, "Go Gators!"

GATOR GROWL INSPIRATION

GloZell Green was born in 1972 in Orlando. "GloZell" is a portmanteau of her parents' first names, Gloria and Odell. Music was essential in the Green family; her sister, DeBrand Green, is a trained opera singer, and GloZell grew up playing the piano and singing at church, activities that helped her get over being "horribly shy" as a child, she said.

After attending Valencia Community College, GloZell transferred to UF where she drew into classes in acting, singing, makeup and stagecraft. Her performance credits at UF include roles in "Cowardly" and "A Play in Her Eat." At Gator Growl, she watched comics like Seinfeld and Real Red, gaining the audience to tears.

That gave her an idea. Maybe comedy would become her métier, too.

She had an "awaking time" at UF but the future Queen of YouTube wasn't poised to essay writing back then. In fact, she herpetized a roster of her for three years, a choice that still amazes her. "It was my first time living away from home," she explained. "So I did what I'd always done... stayed home every night in my junior.

"Finally, my senior year, I decided I can go out at night!"

4.7 MILLION FOLLOWERS

In 2003, the aspiring screenwriter moved to Hollywood, where she joined The Groundlings, the famed improvisation comedy troupe that launched Will Ferrell, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Lovitz and other greats.

Her main inspiration was comedy legend Jay Leno, whose "Tonight Show" she attended for 10 consecutive tapings. Early on, she began interviewing Leno's audience members and posting the videos online until people convinced her she was funny enough to star in her own. Her first viral hit was 2008's "My Push-up Box Will Help Me Get My Man," followed by her translation of Nilam's "Rude Boy" and Kelis' "Te Te Te" in 2010.

By then, GloZell was a newly-eyed ingrate but a savvy stand-up comedy veteran determined to stand out on social media. Bright green lipstick, lime-green shirts and plentiful chestnut-colored curls ensured high visual impact in each self.
After interviewing him in 2015, GloZell rubbed while giving President Barack Obama some green lipstick for his "First Wife." She later said, "If I could just see FLOTUS in green lipstick, then I'll know we're cool." BELOW: GloZell meets Tim Tebow.

"My dream is to perform at Gator Growl. That would be it for me.

"My daughter brought me a new experience," she said. "Before, it was kids. Now it's music, dance, grandpa随处可见 everywhere.

GRANDMA ROSEIPUFF AND LITTLE DEBBIE

Today on GloZell's YouTube channel, you'll find her sitting on the kids' song "Baby Shark" and letting daughter O'Zell as the little girl. "It's understandable. Momma has bigger fish to fry."

Her sister and singing careers are taking off, with roles in the film "The Wedding Ringer" (2015), the Nickelodeon sitcom "Game Shakers" and parody videos "Call Black Darwin," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." ""Jamaica in a voice recording," by singer-actor Todd Hall.

She's also in demand as a voice actor, playing Grandma Roseipuff in "Toots" (2016) and Little Debbie in "Ralph Breaks the Internet" (2018). Sometimes she can record her lines at home, a bonus when caring for an active preschooler.

"It's great when O'Zell hears my voice in a movie and says, "Ooh, that's Mommy,"" she said.

In 2016, HarperOne released GloZell's autobiography, "Is That Okay?," which traces her journey from anonymity in Florida to national popularity on the Internet. The first time mother shares "all the big lessons in creativity, identity and advocacy" she has "experienced two stubborn illnesses." GloZell's next career move is wide open. She can keep mixing the disparate comedy that captivated her into the limelight. From her childhood entertainment, roles in dramatic roles or even host a lifestyle show. Whatever path she chooses, GloZell has an ultimate goal in sight: "My dream is to perform at Gator Growl," the comedian said. "That would be for me."

"I have an answer. It's a blue lipstick," she said. "The green one always gets together before, but Gator Growl? Heck, I'll do one color on each lip."
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Gators head football coach Dan Mullen thrilled Victoria Price (BSPR '17) and her fellow Capital Area Gator Club members in Tallahassee this summer when he visited them to deliver updates on the team. (more photos on page 59). Mullen and UF head basketball coach Mike White visited other Gator Clubs, as well.
On May 18, UF alumni took on service projects large and small to spread the Gator love throughout their own communities. Go Gator Nation!
GREAT GATORS WITH GREAT NEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHER

Whale ecologist Don Harmann (MA ’36) recently became a project manager for the Institute for Wildlife Studies’ San Clemente Island Fox Densified Monitoring Project in California. The human-wildlife conflict specialist is a former Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staffer whose work (potential hero) focused on black bears in human-dominated landscapes.

HOOAH!

Brig. Gen. Michele Dperatorson (BSCE ’93) is the Air Force Academy’s new commander of cadets in Colorado, overseeing 4,000 cadets and 200-plus Air Force and civilian staff. She received her first star in August 2020 while directing space policy for the National Security Council.

CREATIVE RELEASE

Mary Chase (MAJ ’79) wrote “Haunting Paris,” a novel about a determined pilot who discovers a letter that launched her into a decades-old search for a child who vanished in the turbulence of wartime Paris. Chase has lived in Costa Rica.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Patrick de la Rosa (BS ’89) above left, is CEO and co-founder of LASEE Applications in Orlando, which partnered with UF Health Shands Hospital and other hospitals to offer secure HIPAA-approved training capabilities for medical staff to communicate surgery and other updates with patient families. His brother, Dr. Kevin de la Rosa (BS ’89), is chief medical officer and co-founder of the company. They live in Orlando.

FELLOW GATOR

Open expert Carrie Schuman (PhD ’13), who previously worked at Google, used data and numbers to compare the effectiveness of cyclists’ bikes to water and their actions while working on a major transportation study. She wrote a book about how she’s thinking about transportation and wind power. She lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.

TOP HONORS

Carly Brouwer (MSC 192, DND ’96) known professor in bioinformatics at Virginia Tech, where he has taught in the Department of Biotechnology since 1996. He lives in Blacksburg, VA.

TOP OF HIS GAME

Richard Finb (BSBE ’89) is a senior project manager and senior vice president at Legal Information Management Services, LLC. He is a former Gator football defensive tackle.

HEAD BUSTER BRONCO

“It will be an exciting new chapter for me. I am proud to lead the dedicated faculty and staff as they serve students, Idaho and advance the transformative work of the institution.”

— MARLENE FRUMPF (PHD ’95), BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY’S NEW PRESIDENT AND FORMER UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ PROFESSOR

BACK IN THE SEC

David Longley (BSA ’93) is assistant vice president at State Farm Insurance’s staff counsel, covering Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana. He lives in Franklin, TN.

LEADING THE WAY

“At some point in our lives, we all need someone to walk alongside of us and provide support and encouragement where needed.”

— GALE KING (BSJ ’93, MA ’96), EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR NATIONWIDE, WHO HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND ADDRESSING THE ISSUES AROUND CHILDHOOD MENTAL ILLNESS.

54 | FALL 2019
Come on Gators, get up & go!

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OAK HAMMOCK ALUMNI HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Gustavo Ponce (MA ’83, PhD ’86), the global environmental facility’s director of programming and development, received the University of Miami’s Alumni Award in 2016. He was recognized for his work with the University of Miami’s Alumni Association.

UF’S TOP ALUMNI HONOR GOES TO...

Lucy Khalil, president of the African & African American Studies Program, is one of the leading scholars in the field.

Michael Moore, a veteran of the Vietnam War, was awarded the University of Florida’s Alumni Award in 2016.

Will They Eat It?

Mark Feldberg (BSA ’75, MD ’80) is a neurologist at the University of Florida.

UF COLLEGE HONORS VETERINARIANS

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Their work has earned him a number of awards, including the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award.

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GATORS RALLY TO SEE COACH MULLEN

UF head football and basketball coaches Dan Mullen and Mike White signed memorabilia and visited with alumni and fans this summer during the Gator Gathering tour.

There are almost 100 Gator Clubs around the world. To find one in your area, visit alumni.ufl.edu, click "Get Connected," then "Gator Clubs."

Gators on the move!

Preferred Gator Treatment

Another member benefit from the University of Florida Alumni Association:

- 55% discount on all interstate and intrastate moves
- $50,000 Full Value Protection is included in the rates
- Guaranteed on-time pick-up and delivery available
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A portion of the proceeds collected from the transportation costs will be paid to the UF Alumni Association.

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Focus
It’s a Gator thing.

UF Health is home to the No. 1 research hospital in Florida and is consistently ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Our discoveries have advanced care for the millions of patients we help each year — from every county in the state and every state in the country, and beyond. Our sole focus is to provide you and your family with the highest level of world-class care.

GATORS AROUND THE WORLD

1) Elaine (KID ’72) and Sam Dean (SH/MB ’72) showed their Gator pride by riding the Gator at the Australian Outback.

2) Recently retired Southwest executive Adrian Agerton Jensen (B.S.E. ’79) of Melbourne took her husband, Jeremy, daughter, Skyler, and son, and her Gator bag to Cairns, Queensland in Northern Queensland.

3) The Camarda family took their Gator flag all the way to Johnsrud- Calvin College, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. From left are Laura (B.S.A. ’94), Dennis (B.S.E. ’94), and Sabrina.

4) UF Trustee Len Johnson (B.S.E. ’70, J.D. ’80), his wife, Nancy, from Denver City, and gubernatorial UFL 2020 associate and Visitor Chair Tom Hunts, with his wife, Cami, took this photo in the South of France.

5) Cara Trench (LIAS ’12) took her family to Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon in Utah. From left are her brother, Pete Trench Jr., uncle, Rose, and sister, Peter Sr.

6) David (B.S.E. ’66) and Karen Hanley (B.S.E. ’66) picnicked at the Castle of San Giovanni in Rotala, Montegiorgio, for this photo while on their 50th wedding anniversary trip through Europe.

Send your photos & captions to
FloridaGators@ufhealth.org
NUMBERS OF NOTE

3 Generations of Gators in the community: Mierretch Carla Chin (BSEE ’17) is a marketing and advancement coordinator for Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville. Other Gators include her husband, Danny Chin (BSEE ’08), son Tyler Chin (2019), daughter-in-law April Chaln Chin (2018 ’18), niece Brittany Shepherd Hayes (BSE ’19 MA ’20) and niece Carly Shepherd (GSE ’19). Carla says they emulate the Florida-Georgia tradition, ride chutes to tailgates for Gator games and decorate for Halloween (Gator Day).

$25K Amount of The Collie Prize for State Government Accountability at UF that was recently awarded and announced at the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner on April 27. In hand for the announcement was the prize’s creator (a prize, Nathan Collie (BSBA ’74, MBA ’76, JD ’82), as well as his wife (a prize). Adel Collie (BSA ’09, MBA ’11), Linda McGinn (BSBA ’72, MBA ’76, JD ’81) and John McGinn (BSBA ’72, MBA ’74, JD ’81), all of Gainesville, called in to give Collie the prize for his efforts. Nathan Collie, who started Collie’s weekly magazine in 1981. The award is designed to encourage investigative and political courage of their government in the U.S. and to help any organization on any platform. Other Gators attending the dinner included RICK HIRSCH (BS ’81), Managing Editor of The Miami Herald; YEHUDA Minsky (BSA ’60), Senior Vice President of MNC and Elaine McPherson (BS ’76, UF College of Journalism and Communications) Dean.

IN MAY,entered Gator Athletics Director Jeremy Foley. Started his lessons in leadership during a workshop with university leaders from across the Southeast. Highlights include these seven tips:

• Organizational culture is most important.
• If you haven’t talked about your company’s core values today, you haven’t talked about them. Be sure every employee knows what and feels them.
• Invest in people, not hardware.
• No detail is too small.
• Take care of yourself and encourage your team to take care of themselves. The most important performance.
• No person is perfect. Be open about your own shortcomings and mistakes.
• Reward your relationships and show you care every day.

GATORS CHOSEN IN MLB DRAFT THIS YEAR

1 BRADY MCCONNELL KANSAS CITY ROYALS

WELCOME LIFE MEMBERS!

MEET FELLOW GATOR AND LIFE MEMBER KAREN PERSIS

“I joined the Alumni Association so I could be an active member of the Central Florida Gator Club®. The club served as a great way to meet new friends and reconnect with many others when I moved to Orlando. It also offered a lot of fun leadership and volunteer opportunities that I enjoyed.”

— Karen Persis (BSJ ’68, JD ’70)

208 OF YOUR FELLOW GATORS BECAME LIFE MEMBERS OF THE UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SINCE JUNE 1

Members receive a plethora of benefits, but more importantly, their dues support career networking programs, scholarships and fellow and future members of the Gator Nation. Your UF Alumni Association is proud to keep Gators connected to campus and to each other.

JOIN TODAY by visiting uflalumni.ufl.edu or calling 352-392-1905.

FLORIDA GATOR | 55

Visit Gainesville

Where Nature & Culture Meet
UNIQUELY UF TRADITIONS

Did you paddle past "gators on Lake Wauburg? Sway with sweaty strangers to sing "We Are the Boys?" Survive on Krishna carbs, say cheese with Albert or swing a beverage at the Purple Porpoise? What is your favorite tradition?

I DID ALL OF THOSE THINGS YOU LISTED! So many fond memories from my four years in Gainesville. Skateboarding around campus, relaying in the game at The O’Dome. Although, there were away unfortunate experiences, maybe my most memorable was writing in the snow at the snow-bound Tate Ball in Rake Union and watching saw the University of Florida win the national championship.

I helped serve all those great drinks at the Purple Porpoise, which paid my tuition.

Great halftime fun, but hanging out at Tailgates Rock or walking through the Plaza of Americas for Krispy Kreme free food was even more delicious. Loved walking around on Westcut. Living in Tooele Towers, too, but living in the co-op of the South Campus was the bomb! We became family and built an awesome Gator Nation. And I never quite understood the term behind the "Trench Ficks!"

Dave Cooper O’Quinn (BA ’81) in senior director of compensation at Wells Fargo Public Schools in Binghamton, CA.

AWESOME FOUR YEARS AT UF.

Just went back to visit with my college roommate. We visited our old stomping grounds — what was left of them anyway. Memories include: Burrito Brothers quarter at CJ’s egg salad sandwiches at Joe’s Deli drinks and sandwiches at Purple Porpoise, walking through the courtyard at the shere-Club building,宏观建筑超现代，Downtown (not a great memory, but he was popular). The Orange &u Cream, which used to be the "best" place to go, a small (don’t think it was on my own, it was a "party" spot). I won’t forget the times I went to the "ring" to take photos, or the times I had to get something to eat. I do remember watching the Gator men’s basketball games in the O’Dome, 5-in-1 drinks at The Copper Monkey. The Bank — great place for dancing, and being in the crowd when someone scored running through Weiner Hall. It’s still the place where Skulls and Bones used to hang. Pebble Hill in the fall, or the 3-in-1 drinks at The Copper Monkey. The Bank.

Debbie Gill Beazley (BS ’86) is a baker and editor in Mt. Airy, NC.

TOO MANY FUN MEMORIES TO ACCURATELY PORTRAY THE WONDERFULNESS OF THIS SCHOOL, but here are a few $50 per quarter tickets. Seating and being lured by莱德，and diving into a convenient mailbox, where you can safety in the ocean plant triangle (Frisbee and "lab" night). I had previously marched in the band, so I knew some of the musicians; they let me march into the stadium in their rad with my horn, carrying a case loaded with beer. The 1972 May Day riots with the Alachua sheriff

and their wives’ various dispensable mates being thinned by the "hippies" on 1st Street, and the Durrance coach being sown the nuts are bad handwriting outside. The Parents’ dinner, being pepper-sprayed on campus with the on-campus riot.

Jogging for good health, followed by beer and pizza. Best concerts outside the Hetrick Union, on the Plaza of Americas and at the Great Southern Music Hall. UF Jazz Band concerts were always exciting. Walking around century Tower looking for a single brick. Finding exactly what I needed in the library (long before the Internet). Explaining to the "Trench Ficks" what the crowd of a boy was up on our building was a hydraulic gardening project. Great professors with actual, expanding knowledge and lifelong friends.

Gary T. Biggs (BSCE ’74) is a medical device industry reliability engineer in West Palm Beach.

RUNNING IN THE GATOR GALLOP BEFORE THE HOMECOMING PARADE. Then using Robin Williams and his "Mr. Happy" Alter ego, which just ran in and roared around the field. The following years featured the Smokey Bear brothers and Bob Hope, who was bailed off stage. I was at C.J. when Gator football reached No. 1 in the SEC. For the first time (1984) — what a crazy, wild night! The fans were wild. I actually saw Tom Petty at Stompet’s BBQ on 11th Street in 1985. No cell phones then, just the memory.

All Gators (BA ’79) is an insurance writer and graphic designer in Palm Beach Gardens.

MY MEMORY FROM THE LATE 80’s, EARLY 90’s. It is about a million degrees outside, and we are packing food and taking a high school student to the plane.

Evan Smith just ran for another 20 yards, and we are4 surrounded by our friends waving long rods and waving our arms at the crowd. About four minutes before the kickoff, we went down and out of the stadium, walking across the street to the Purple Porpoise for some halftime snacks. Slipping back into the stadium, we waited another two downs of Earnest carrying the ball, but all is good. The man was followed behind Florida Field, and we sang for the thousandth time, "Gina on Gator, Get Up and Go! We sit out of the stadium and across the darkened campus, were worried about the weather for next week, while teams on Monday. The crazy thing is that now, even 30 years later, I still have dreams about that party down a few minutes for which I didn’t wash enough.

Michael "Fin" Ruprecht, CEO of Bluenote Consulting and Transformed in Palm Beach, City Center.

FLORIDA GATOR 67
PADDLING WITH GATORS

I remember the time hearing there were more than 400 gators in Lake Wacconia, but that didn’t really deter us from going swimming.
Margaret Dwyer ’92, MAURP ’94

IN THE LATE 80S I WENT TO EVERY FOOTBALL GAME I COULD AND WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO “STAND UP AND HOLLER” WITH MR. TWO BITS. After graduation, my dad and I came back for one game per year whenever we could. Later, we added my kids to this tradition. One year, we were in the stands early before the game. We had the good fortune to meet Mr. Two Bits who was kind enough to stop for a photo with my dad and my kids. I love this photo because it reminds me of all I love about Gator football, past and present. This photo is even more special now because two of my kids went on to attend UF as well. My daughter graduated from CALS in 2017, and my son is a third-year student in the College of DCP. We are a proud triple-Gator family!

Michelle Schiff McKeown (BSAED ’87) is a continuing medical education coordinator in Septer.

MY FAVORITE UF TRADITION IS SIMPLY BEING A GATOR. Some think that means graduating from UF, which it is, and I did with great pride. But for me, it’s so much more. It’s family history and tradition with two uncles who graduated from UF going on to have great careers as engineers. It’s going every Saturday to Gator home games since I was 10 years old. Meeting up with my uncles and all my cousins as early as 8 a.m. in the morning, tailgating all day and half the night with J&G and friends, passing out to the stadium and sitting in the student box together at Florida Field. It’s homecoming games with your uncle rising in it. It’s Gator Game with a huge pot of chili beforehand. It’s walking back to a late class and seeing the football players walking out to the practice field greeting you. It’s wearing your Gator colors every Friday before Saturday game day and taking to complete strangers in line at the grocery store about how you think the team will perform. It’s about proudly displaying your diploma and following its traditions to go to the school in your backyard. It’s about your mom getting a letter from UF thanking her for her 40-plus years of being a season ticket holder and walking her to her last home Gator football game, which consisted strangely saying “Go Gators” and thanking her for her support. It’s a rich tradition that starts with the pregame to get a degree but ends with deep-rooted traditions that you hold close to your heart. I’m thankful for UF. It’s more than a college; it’s a way of life.

Leah Elliott (BA ’90) is a business process manager for Info Tech in Alabama and lives in High Springs.

INDIAN STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION EVENTS, LIKE THIS ONE: Holi 2019. Known as the “Festival of Colors,” Holi is a traditional Indian holiday that celebrates the commencement of spring and emphasizes the importance of community. Holi allows people to come together from all walks of life to have a joyful time by throwing colored powder at one another, singing and dancing, and enjoying good food and company. This festive event is an opportunity for students to experience and celebrate diversity and unity.

Dharmesh Kabani (MSEM ’15) is a mechanical engineer in Gainesville.

VISITING THE UF BAT HOUSES AT DUSK. My roommates and I would come down for football games and we all went along with my roommates. I did not think the umbrellas would be necessary, but they definitely were. It was hilarious. I never expected to be out that evening, but it made for a great video. Thank you!

Hollie Smith (BA ’14) of Arianna is an outreach specialist for Svet Media and is writing on her master’s in public administration.

BURRITO BROTHERS OR LEONARDO’S PIZZA

Tracey Gardner-Poaluf (BSHSE ’91) of Duluth, Ga., is associate director at Moving Forward HealthCare.

HANGING OUT AT THE SET BETWEEN CLASSES AND WATCHING STEP SHOWS. Running in the Swamp. Watching football practice. Tailgating in the Beach/in Museum: Parking lot. Living in the Swamp dorms and...
MAGICAL MUSICAL TOWN

I played some guitar and sang back then (still do) and played at various small venues. Gainesville has always been a magical musical town, but in the early 70s it was something! You never knew when you were going to show up to see and play a few times. One of the fellows I played with was Tom Landis of the original Mudenberg group (later Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers). I think it is now a guitar teacher in Nashville. His brother Bernie played in the Eagles (Sunny on "Take It Easy") and they were on their own a little more successful. Tom's entire family was into music. I also remember being a nurse with Michael Campbell of the Heartbreakers at his house one afternoon. No sooner then little did I know what was coming. Mudenburg was the local bar band then, and they played all over town often, at festivals and anywhere they could get a gig. They had a big white house out in the woods that we could go to on weekends, grab a blanket, open a bottle of wine and listen to the band practice. It was a lot of fun, very mellow and soothing. It was true Gator tradition for those that knew, it was special. We did not really know how special until Tom Petty because what he did and touched so many lives. For all the distortion of small, spotty, original learning and fun, I graduated with a B.A. in psychology with a 3.4 average. I am grateful for my Gainesville days and so my staycation at UF the best university in the land! I am grateful for the opportunity to live here. I am a Tom Petty fan still, of course. So glad I got one of the tickets to the show.

Gardstein Khan, aka Fred Gehr Jr. (BS '79), is a natural foods consultant in Alhambra Springs.

BURRITO BROS ORIGINAL LOCATION was 110 Swain. Still makes the best guac. Ever loved.

Jay Meyer (BSBA '84) is vice president of sales at Old Paltryman in Alhambra, CA.

SO MANY TRADITIONS: reading while you were housed in Munson library (books pockety, margaritas at Ashley's), student section at Gator games, the French Press, the old Stain Unix, Mardi Gras, Little Mari ACS holds both 80s & 90s. I could go on. Great to be a Florida Gator! Rachel Truslow (BSBA '99) of Fort Orange is associate vice president for patient engagement at Ascend Research Sites.

BACK IN FALL, FRESHMAN YEAR 1967, I took the UFL from Honor Hall to College West. Spent my days at the library in between classes and meeting the best food chickens at the College Inn. Jami Sontos (BEd '72) is a retired public school teacher in Palm Coast.

THE MOST FUN I HAD AS A 10-YEAR OLD GIRL VISITING GAINESVILLE, when my family would soon be moving, was spending Gator games with the ski team, marching band, and celebrity appearances. I remember Jim Stafford singing: "I don't like spiders and snakes," and thought I had found heaven. As a Gator girl eighty years later, the tradition and the fans continue every year in between Alumni - the tradition of painting the skies with their team until finally I got a few passes tonight at Gator. What a happy memory!

Barlow Slade (BEd '93) of Oshawa is assistant director of academic success and an assistant professor at Simon University's College of Law.


Tammy Gagne Allen (BS '89, BS '99) is administrative project coordinator for the Pinellas County Air Quality Division in Tampa.

LEARNED TO RIDE A BIKE AND DRIVE A CAR IN GAINESVILLE. Was shocked to come across a small red 'pacer on a bike path. Luckily for me i managed to stop & turn it over. First time watching football game with Gators were great stadium and awesome atmosphere. Best years of my life. Go Gators!

Dhriti Khadilkar (MSE '06) is an operations support team leader at BP in Ahschabat.

LATE NIGHTS AT SKEETER'S. Cheap eats at Burrito Brothers, house by the pizza place in Grape颚. Moving in 90s, plus with hospitality at Florida Field. Gainesville's air park and the bicycle on wheels. Kinney's food at Casa de America, the student groups Gator Crew Band, 94th Street, dressy gala live (or not). You're a Banker's margaritas at Ashleys pub, the H вызо характеристика, Joe's Diner great tail drive through liquor bar, the best for on-campus parking.

Joe Gonzales (BS '92) is lead manager of the HGI Group in Columbia, MD.

I WITNESSED GATORMIN SWIMMING WITH THE GATORS and my first same-sex wedding at the shores of Lake Wachusett 1978. Illegal then, not now, thank you U.S. Supreme Court. Are free Kinney's food once, got food poisoning, never again. Learned to be a journalism kid of the Florida Gators. Wouldn't say that for anything.

Andrew Froman (BS '78) of St. Simons is partner at Fisher & Phillips tax law firm in Tampa.

SANDWICH NO. 6 AT ALAN'S GATOR HAUS, football at the College Inn and the Halloween. Fun! And pioneer of chili bar and simmered chipotle beans.

Henry Dam (BSBA '73) is director of strategic initiatives at MarketStreet Unclaimed Property Specialist in Alhambra.

JIM SUTTON singing, "I don't like spiders and snakes," and thought I had found heaven. As a Gator girl eighty years later, the tradition and the fans continue every year in between Alumni - the tradition of painting the skies with their team until finally I got a few passes tonight at Gator. What a happy memory!

My skydiver group jumped into the lake, but we had a boat ready to get us out of the water quickly.

David M. Hensler (BSBA '70) is a mechanical engineering graduate from Texas.

HANGING OUT AT SEAHORSE KEY trading for friend's named dawn. Fishing in the back of Lake Albac. Hanging out at the steps of Jennings Hall.

Emilio Poore (BS '95) is a research analyst, food and SAS architect at Duke Civilian Research Institute in Durham, NC.

FALL 2010
FLORIDA GATERS
FLORIDA GATERS
CHOMPIN’ IT UP WITH GATOR CLUBS

Want to connect with other Gators in your area? Try out your local club by attending one of the many local events hosted each year. Here is a small sampling of events hosted this summer. Visit connect.uflalumni.ufl.edu/network/GatorClubs for details.

Adnan, Broward County and Delray Beach Gator Club hosted a dinner to celebrate a $2 million gift to the University of Florida’s College of Business Administration this summer. The dinner was attended by UF President Julie Adams, UF Board of Trustee Chair Mark Pappas, and UF Board of Trustee member Paul Brown.

ADAM SCHWARTZ

Adam Schwartz, B.S., 98, always knew he wanted to be an entrepreneur. He just wasn’t sure how to accomplish it. But in 2018, the New York City Gator’s dream came true when he sold the company he started just five years earlier for a fortune. “I work hard and I’m ambitious, but I also have a lot of luck,” Schwartz says. “I was able to take advantage of an opportunity at the right time.”

LESSON LEARNED:

“When you’re building a business, you have to be willing to take risks and you have to be able to adapt to change.”

ON BEING A MILLIONAIRE:

“It’s a lot of hard work, but you still feel like you’re making a difference and you’re doing something that’s meaningful for the future.”

SOURCES:

“My wife and I both love being entrepreneurs. We own a design firm in New York City and we both love working together on every project.”

ON THE BEST PART OF GATOR FOOTBALL:

“I love being a part of the community and being able to give back to the city.”

ON WHAT HE’S LEARNED FROM LIFE:

“I’ve learned that hard work and determination can make anything happen.”

BIGGEST SURPRISE:

“When I graduated from UF I never thought I would own a company.”

FUTURE GOALS:

“I want to continue to grow my business and make a difference in the community.”

HOW HE PREPARED HIMSELF:

“I made sure to surround myself with good people and to always be open to learning.”

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

““If you’re not growing, you’re dying.””

— DAVID FINNEY
FROM “SPURRIER GUY” TO SURGICAL SCRUBS

Up in the state’s Panhandle is the old town of Chipley. It’s a glimpse back to old Florida. A powder-blue water tower looms over the business district; a railroad overpass past homes and storefronts; a free-standing church steeple outside Katie’s Kafe; and a smokestack that speaks.

This is where Dr. Michael Gilmore was born. His beginning.

It’s where he discovered a love for science and sports. Where his father, UF all-star T. Dow “Dow” Gilmore, was a business partner at Kings Dispensary Drugs. Where his mother and sister still own the clothing store Enamor & Co. on Main Street.

“Chipley’s small, but the coaches and teachers were excellent. The discipline I got growing up there, the things I learned and the skills I developed took me to the University of Florida,” Gilmore says.

And back again. In 2004, 4 years after Steve Spurrier made him a cornerstone of his first Gators recruiting class, Gilmore returned to southwest Florida as an orthopedic surgeon. PracticeFaxtra, now has offices in Plant City, Pinellas and at the University of Florida, and 7 patients — all along the Intercoastal 10 and east. Even with all the years and miles that separate Gilmore from Gainsville, there’s still a lot of UF inside the Gator game. It’s where his wife, Laura, and where the couple’s first child was born.

“The university is a very, very special place for me. I wouldn’t be who I am today without it,” says Gilmore (BA ’94, MD ’03, HS ’90, HS ’94).

Pursuit of excellence

1990 was a big year for Gators. Spurrier was back. And with the Heisman winner, a return to the program’s Charlie Brown aura and glory that had eluded the orange-and-blue for much of the 1970s and ’80s.

The Heisman Trophy finally returned to Florida and Spurrier was back on a team he could build the commitment he demanded. In Gilmore, Spurrier (BSK ’81) found a like-minded soul.

Now, he refers to Gilmore as one of his guys. “Michael did what the team asked him to do,” Spurrier says. “He was smart. He gave maximum effort every play. He was a guy we could count on.”

And in Spurrier, Gilmore had a coach he could count on, too.

“What was around me was excellence,” Gilmore says. “We were all trying to do the same thing: be as good as we could.”

Gilmoe’s toughness and intelligence made him a natural leader. By the time the clock expired in his last game in a Gator uniform, he’d attended all four seasons, won two SEC championships and twice been named a first-team Academic All-American. A captain in 1993 and ’94, teammates voted him Most Valuable Player the latter season.

No. 35 was special, Spurrier says. “He’s one of the best students I ever came to Florida. He did everything well,” the coach says. “There are few like Michael.”

As committed to academics as football, Gilmore graduated magna cum laude — was a Rhodes Scholar finalist, served as a student assistant at UF’s Orthopedic Institute and helped train air-Branch shoulder guides to keep players from overworking.

Reluctant sports and academics aren’t always easy. Gilmore admits.

“Sometimes I had to leave football practice a little early so I could get to the chemistry lab, even if it meant watching being in my football pads because I didn’t have time to change,” he says.

Coach and professor worked with him, though. Take the 1992 SEC Championship week — the same week the Rhodes Scholars admission committee was interviewing. Gilmore refused a lot of practice, but was still allowed to start that Saturday.

The deciding factor was a no-brainer, Spurrier says. “He knew what he had to do. The other thing he was doing was that week were important.”

Never give up

Gilmore, like most Gators, is remembered as the game free-spirit who offered thoughtful insights during postgame interviews. What fans didn’t see was his determination to be great on and off the gridiron.

“Belief, being self-motivated and pushing myself to the limits is all for these all these years at the university — being on a day-to-day grind, back to back, just over and over, it’s a good push,” he says.

It’s never lost on Gilmore to be surrounded by his alma mater. He’s a Distinguished Alumnus, BS in Kinesiology, ’83, at the College of Medicine and Athletics.

“Ordinarily, the Gilmore doesn’t make it back to Gainsville as often as they’d like,” Gilmore says. “Our jobs and children’s activities swallow most of their time.”

“We immediately have a bond, even if we don’t know each other,” Gilmore says.

“A lot of things that come from just having pride in all that we have there.”

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GATOR NATION Tailgates

The University of Florida Alumni Association invites all members and their guests to gather at Emerson Alumni Hall prior to each home football game this fall. Get ready to cheer on the Gators with fellow alumni while enjoying live entertainment, a face painter, tailgate games and food and beverages for purchase.

For more info, including tailgate times, visit http://bit.ly/GNT2019

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