



GATOR

FLORIDA

SPRING 2020

GATOR INVENTORS TO THE RESCUE

Plastics that decompose in landfills? Seriously, these new UF ideas are game changers. Page 26

**AND THE AWARD
GOES TO ...** Find out who won this year's Academy of Golden Gators. Page 44

THIS GATOR'S A

WILD ONE

**IT'S EASY TO GET EXCITED ABOUT ANIMALS
WITH THIS NAT GEO WILD STAR. Page 20**

CORONAVIRUS

In early March, due to the spread of COVID-19, all state universities including UF moved all classes online and asked students to return to their homes.

Around the world, this pandemic has created uncertainty and will surely be remembered as an inflection point that challenged all members of our community to rethink the way we approach our daily lives and work. I thank everyone for their efforts, patience and flexibility as we navigate this complex situation together.

The strength of our university and Gator Nation is built on its people, and I am grateful to be surrounded by

individuals who embrace new challenges with optimism and demonstrate grace under pressure each day.

This issue, which was going to press as the crisis unfolded, includes a revised letter from President Fuchs (pg. 5), as well as photos from campus as staff and students headed home (pg. 74). Your summer issue will include complete coverage. Until then, remember: "In all kinds of weather, we all stick together."

— Matthew Hodge, Executive Director
UF Alumni Association

UF CHAMPIONS

THE PROGRAM THAT GENE BUILT

Retired UF finance professor helps secure his department's prowess well into the future

UF's finance program in the Warrington College of Business has been ranked in the top 10 among public universities nationwide for some time. This is due, in part, to the efforts of finance professor **Eugene Brigham** (UF faculty 1971-2009), pictured below, who literally wrote the textbook in his field.

In addition to launching UF's Public Utility Research Center (PURC) in 1972 and serving as its founding director, Brigham was a pillar of UF's Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, writing more than 10 textbooks on various aspects of finance that are used at more

than 1,000 universities worldwide today. In his 30-plus years with UF — and since — he also advised numerous companies and government agencies, including the Federal Reserve Board.

Since 2015, Brigham has invested in the college: creating a research endowment for PURC, an endowed faculty chair in finance and a transformational endowment that will enhance the finance program well into the future. This spring, Brigham announced that he intends to give even more funds to ensure the department can offer the best undergraduate finance experience to students.

UF and the Gator Nation are humbled by his generosity and honored to rename the department he helped make famous after him. Because of his passionate advocacy and expertise, UF has become a destination for students who want to learn about this critical business field that influences every community around the globe. **THANK YOU.**



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FLORIDA GATOR

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GATOR

SPRING 2020

FEATURES

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This Nat Geo Wild filmmaker's images are getting humans psyched about protecting the many wild creatures in their own backyards.

26 Gator Inventors to the Rescue

From plastics that decompose in landfills to smarter energy solutions, check out these new UF technologies to improve our environment.

32 Smiles as Big as Their Hearts

Southwest Florida children suffering from severe dental problem have hope, thanks to a UF partnership with a generous Naples charity.

40 In Search of Amelia

Allison Fundis (MS '10) is paying tribute to one of her role models, Amelia Earhart, by setting out to solve the 82-year mystery of her disappearance.

44 And the Academy Award Goes to ...

Find out who won this year's Academy of Golden Gators.

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72 FINISH LINE: How Cory McGee (BA '14) turned her passion into a profession




ON THE COVER


Inspired by the late animal expert Steve Irwin and backed by Nat Geo Wild, UF's own Filipe DeAndrade (pronounced Fíleep DEE-on-DRAH-dee) is using his telecommunications degree to encourage the conservation of animal species in your back yard and around the world.

When physicians reference Florida's #1 research hospital, they're talking about us.

Home to the state's #1 research hospital, UF Health is consistently ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Our discoveries advance care for millions of patients each year. So, it's not surprising that physicians send patients to UF Health from every county in the state and every state in the nation, and from dozens of countries around the world. We conduct landmark translational research that changes lives and moves medicine forward with innovative treatments.




Best in Florida for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery




Trauma and emergency patients transported to UF Health from all 67 Florida counties



More than 8,600 patients from 33 countries treated at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute



More lung transplants than any other Florida hospital



More than 1,300 patients with movement disorders treated with deep brain stimulation

Milestones such as these are made possible by unmatched research advances at UF Health —with 10 hospitals, 9 research centers and institutes, more than 1,400 College of Medicine faculty physicians and a comprehensive team of health care professionals. The quest for answers begins here. Put the power of research to work for you and your patients.



Conversation with UF President **Kent Fuchs**

TRYING TIMES

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF FACE NEW REALITIES AS FLORIDA LEADERS AND OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD RESPOND TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

President Fuchs received hundreds of emails from students after UF announced it was shifting to all online classes in March. Below is his response to one student.

Dear Meghan, thank you for your thoughtful email and kind words. I regret that you're not able to play women's club soccer or to be a part of your academic clubs, and that you've been separated from your best friends. Nothing I can say right now can replace those joys or those friends, or bring you back to our campus and the classrooms you love.

I know from other emails that you are among many students doing your best to cope with many unexpected hardships. Like you, most students are struggling to make a rapid switch to online classes, keep up with their studies and move back home, all at once. Thousands have learned that the spring graduation they'd looked forward to for years has been postponed and they may not be able to attend.

We have students who have already lost jobs and others whose family members have been laid off due to the closures aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. Every student has reason to worry about their health and the health of their loved ones since the virus is now everywhere.

These are unprecedented times. And without meaning to be discouraging, the days and weeks ahead are likely to be tougher — with more hardships.

Just over 100 years ago, in the fall of 1918, UF was hit hard by the "Spanish Influenza," the worst pandemic in modern history. Then, as now, all athletic events were canceled, along with most university activities. Fully a third of our students and some faculty got sick. Floyd Hall (today Griffin-Floyd Hall) was turned into a makeshift hospital — but there were still not enough beds,

doctors, nurses or drugs to give everyone adequate care.

Several students and at least one faculty member died. Yet "classes continued through the crisis even if there was only a single student present," according to Gator History, by the late

"Your generation — which came into the world with 9/11 and goes out into the world as adults in a global pandemic — is being tested in a way that no generation globally has been tested in my lifetime."

— PRESIDENT FUCHS TO A UF STUDENT

UF history professor Samuel Proctor and co-author Wright Langley.

Those who survived went on to flourish and helped create UF as we know it, including, in 1924, the first Homecoming.

When I picture what it must have been like to fight the 1918 pandemic at UF with few tools of modern medicine, in rudimentary facilities, in an impoverished era for UF, I take heart. With the help of our amazing UF doctors and nurses, and with so many working around the clock to find a way to battle COVID-19, I know that we will win this fight, too.

You write of the difficulty of switching to online classes while living in a new city where you don't have any friends. It's hard to focus on school when you are figuring out "how to do a 180 of everything in my life," as you write.

Meghan, it's clear to me that you and your fellow students are being tested. Indeed your generation — which came into the world with 9-11 and goes out into the world as adults in a global pandemic — seems to be being tested in a way that no generation globally has been tested in my lifetime.

No doubt, this pandemic will change you. I believe it will make you more resilient just as happened with those who survived and flourished at UF after the 1918 pandemic.

Meghan, again, I am deeply saddened that you and our other students are seeing your studies and lives upended. When this ends — and it will end — I pray that you and UF will flourish.

I look forward to seeing you on campus again.

Warmest regards,
Kent

Read the full exchange between President Fuchs and UF student Meghan Rodriguez in the March 20 *Independent Florida Alligator* at <https://bit.ly/33EyRZW> or by searching www.alligator.org.



UNIVERSITY AVENUE

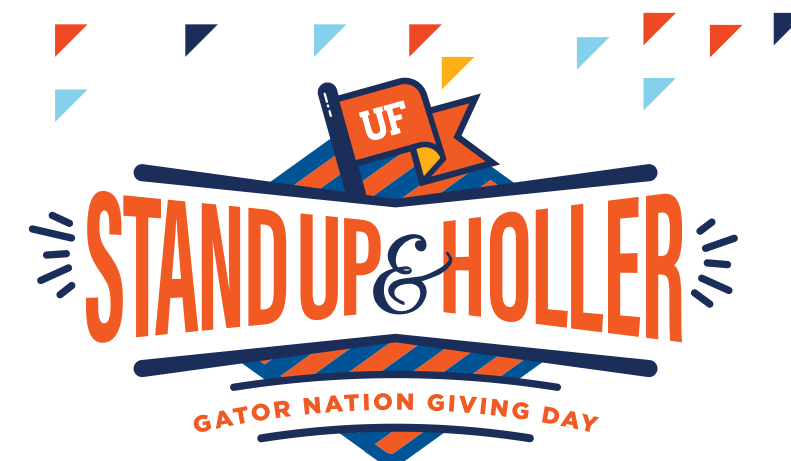
UF experienced its second Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day on Feb. 20.

"The Gator Nation's response to last year's giving day blew us away. But this year, our community has defied all expectations. On days like these, we show the world what we can do. It's a testament to UF that so many alumni, students and friends believe so strongly in this university."

KATRINA ROLLE,
PRESIDENT, UF ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

One of the Giving Day events on campus was this celebration featuring (from left) the Fightin' Gator Marching Band, Vice President for Student Affairs D'Andra Mull and Florida Cicerone Griffin Conaty (2 Finance).

AARON DAYE



LAST YEAR, the Gator Nation blew past all expectations, with 11,535 gifts and \$12.6 million coming from all over the country and around the world. This phenomenal outpouring of support on giving day, in part, fueled UF's rise to No. 7 among public universities.

THIS YEAR, in true Gator fashion, you surpassed UF's expanded goal of 15,000 gifts and \$15 million.

2020 Results



**16,993
gifts**



\$23.6M

UF COLLEGES HOLLERING THE LOUDEST:

College of Journalism and Communications: 1,263 gifts
College of Design, Construction and Planning: \$10,941,279

GEORGE EDMONDSON JR.

The Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day campaign is named in recognition of the beloved Gator football game cheer made famous by George Edmondson Jr., better known to fans as "Mr. Two Bits." Edmondson's iconic orange-and-blue striped necktie was used as a symbol to promote the campaign, with replicas as large as 30 feet long strategically placed throughout the Gainesville campus.

SEE MORE ABOUT GIVING DAY ON PAGE 68





PHARMACISTS OF THE CARIBBEAN

UF pharmacy scientists (from left) Michelle Bousquet, Hendrik Luesch and Fatma Al-Awadhi discovered and claimed yet another treasure in the waters off Florida's coast. This time it's a marine grass that contains anti-inflammatory properties shown in a lab to prevent Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease and other digestive tract precursors to colon cancer. "This is an exciting finding because colon inflammation impacts so many health conditions," said Luesch, who holds UF's Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Chair in Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development within the College of Pharmacy. Further studies are needed to determine potential dosage and side effects, among other considerations. The researchers collected this grass off the coast of Boca Grande Key near Key West.

UF HEALTH PHOTOGRAPHY

VENTURING FORTH

UF INNOVATE LAUNCHES FOURTH BRANCH OF TECH TRANSFER OPERATION

In March 2019, **Brammer Bio**, a UF spinoff company, was sold for \$1.7 billion to Thermo Fisher Scientific. Brammer's story is a prime example of UF's strength in the tech transfer market, fostering the commercialization of UF research developments. Now, UF's tech transfer enterprise, **UF Innovate**, has launched a new division called **Ventures** to continue and further perfect UF's efforts.

"Our hope is that with the new Ventures group and director, we can either find or create the next 10 Brammers," said **Jim O'Connell**, assistant vice president of commercialization at UF.

Ventures joins UF Innovate's existing divisions: **Tech Licensing** and two business incubators, **The Hub** and **Sid Martin Biotech**. While the incubators provide infrastructure support — such as facilities, resources, education and advising — to promising companies, Ventures will provide an entrepreneurs-in-residence program, startup grants and leadership from a man who has vast experience in the venture capital world, **Ventures Director Jackson Streeter**.

Streeter invented more than 20 patented technologies and founded or led (as



Streeter

CEO) multiple startup companies, including UF startup **Banyan Biomarkers**. He served as CEO and executive director of the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund. And, he was the first naval flight

surgeon selected as a U.S. Navy TOP GUN staff instructor.

O'Connell says Streeter "has a well-connected network," "the ability to ... ID those companies with potential and get the VCs (venture capitalists) behind them." O'Connell says Streeter's contributions could mean more UF startups go to market, which means more jobs and more investments in Florida.

Brammer Bio can trace its start to a \$10 million Florida grant UF received in 2003. Today, it is still located in Progress Park near Gainesville and to date has created almost 325 biotech jobs. UF's hope is that with Streeter in place, armed with a \$1 million venture fund from which he'll dole out grants, UF will spark more Brammer Bio-type startups to boost and grow Florida's economy.

UNIVERSITY CLOSE TO FACULTY HIRING GOAL

UF's new lead guitar studies instructor in the **School of Music**, **Silviu Ciulei** (pronounced Sil-vee-oo Chew-lay), is a classical and flamenco guitarist who won first prize in the Romanian National Music Olympics. He's also a three-time first prize winner and gold medalist in the George Georgescu International Music Performance Competition.

Ciulei is an example of the professors UF is hiring to improve its student-to-faculty ratio and strengthen its interdisciplinary programs. UF set a goal in fall 2018 to add 500 new faculty. Since then, 458 professors have been hired, and 25 more have accepted offers (483 total).

See and hear Ciulei perform at www.silviuciulei.com/Videos.html.



Ciulei

KEN YANAGISAWA

NUMBERS OF NOTE



5-7 YEARS

GETTY IMAGES

Length of a new \$97 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration **rescue effort** in which UF researchers will breed long-spined sea urchins in their Tampa labs for eventual release onto coral reefs. Urchins eat — among other things — the thick, slimy algae that kills reefs. A mysterious and massive urchin die-off in the 1980s is mostly blamed for reef declines. Scientists have tried for years to breed the sensitive creatures, but this summer UF perfected the tricky process. bit.ly/2UXlyBE



Boyd

UF/IFAS TYLER JONES

90%

Reduction in agricultural pesticide use, thanks to **UF/IFAS researcher Nathan Boyd**, who trained computers at UF's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center near Tampa to identify weeds and help growers know when, where and how to control pests.

bit.ly/38zw85w

HEARD IN GATORVILLE



“Vanilla likes it humid; vanilla likes it hot, so South Florida is a great location for this crop.”

— ALAN CHAMBERS,
HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, who is working with more than 100 growers who want to produce vanilla beans. In times of shortage, this crop is more valuable — ounce for ounce — than silver. bit.ly/2SuVITU



OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A man with a camera walks amid a burned-out block after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre in Oklahoma.

“We want them to be reinterred respectfully and not in a museum somewhere on a shelf.”

— PHOEBE STUBBLEFIELD,
UF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST

who serves on the 1921 Mass Graves Investigation Public Oversight Committee and is helping to shape a plan that could confirm the location of buried riot victims in Tulsa, OK. The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre is still considered by the state’s historical society to be “the single worst incident of racial violence in American history.”

n.pr/37xkE1p



Grant Holloway

UAA COMMUNICATIONS/DAKOTA WILLIAMS

11 RECORDS BROKEN

UF (seven), collegiate (three) and national (one) track and field **records broken by Grant Holloway (3LAS) during his three-year college career.** In December, the Chesapeake, VA, native won The Bowerman, collegiate track and field’s equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. After his junior season, when he became the first collegiate hurdler to sweep the NCAA indoor and outdoor titles in three consecutive years, he turned pro and won the 110-meter hurdles at the IAAF World Championships in Doha, Qatar. Holloway is 22 and will take a break from college while he trains to run in the 2020 Summer Olympics. Coincidentally, his Team USA coach is another Gator superstar: UF’s head track and field coach, Mike Holloway (BA ’00).



UF COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

40 POUNDS

Weight of a stray sulcata tortoise, also called an African spurred or spur-thighed tortoise, which was brought to **UF’s Small Animal Hospital** in October. While finding a home for the creature, College of Veterinary Medicine staff discovered the turtle is allergic to a type of hay. This is the first time such an allergy has been documented in tortoises or turtles. Now that the animal is safe in its new owner’s escape-proof enclosure, the veterinary team plans to write up the allergy case for a scientific journal. bit.ly/38yBD4C



UF/IFAS TYLER JONES

Wild garden area at Bok Tower Gardens near Lake Wales.

GARDENS **GONE WILD**

Expect to see more unconventional and eco-conscious plants in homes and gardens this year, according to UF/IFAS horticultural experts. Below are 10 of the hottest landscaping and gardening trends identified by agricultural researchers and staff, as compiled by UF/IFAS writer **Samantha Murray** (MFA ’15).

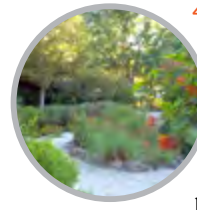
1. NATIVES ARE BEST

How can you know which plants are natives and best suited to your area? Ask your local UF/IFAS extension experts. **Kate Rotindo**, an urban horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County, said native plants are generally lower maintenance, require less water, pruning and fertilizer, and grow best in their native range.



2. PLANT FOR WILDLIFE

Homeowners are also focusing on plants that attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators — making them good for the environment, said **Wendy Wilber**, state coordinator for the UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. For example, plants with berries attract birds, and layering plants of various heights provides hiding places for other species.



3. TRY DWARF VARIETIES

Residents without a lot of space for gardening are choosing dwarf versions of their favorite varieties, said **Beth Bolles**, horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County. Dwarfs require less pruning, but still provide a pleasant and permanent landscape shrub feature, she said.

4. RE-WILD YOUR GARDEN

Theresa Badurek, a horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County, says this technique dictates gardeners reduce their control of the landscape — encouraging beneficial insects, reducing herbicide and pesticide use, pruning less and planting more native plants. However, those interested should first talk with their neighbors and homeowner associations about their intentions.

5. MAKE LANDSCAPES EDIBLE

Fruit-bearing plants, ornamental vegetables and edible flowers can add style and taste to a landscape, said Wilber. “You get the double benefit of having a landscape that looks nice and provides nutritious food.”

6. ADD ART WITH SUCCULENTS

Though succulents and cacti have long been popular low-maintenance plants, consumers are looking for less familiar varieties. “People are discovering the immense variety that is the world of succulents,” Bolles said. “Their interesting shapes and growth habits seem to offer a form of living art.”



7. DIVERSIFY WITH NOVEL GREENS

Vegetable gardeners will be looking to diversify their plots with leafy greens commonly grown outside the United States, such as mizuna, bok choy and komatsuna, according to Bolles.

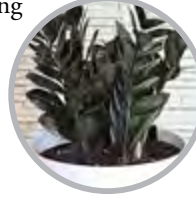


8. GET LEAFIER

Though a dozen roses will likely never go out of style, arrangements featuring flowers and foliage are gaining popularity, said **Karen Stauderman**, commercial horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County. “Florida greens with leatherleaf ferns are making a comeback in floral arrangements, garlands and other plant decor.”

9. GET COLORFULLY DARK

Plants with red, purple or “black” leaves are a striking addition to any landscape, making them more attractive to gardeners, says **Marguerite Beckford**, commercial horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County. Examples are the black raven, ZZ plant, the Black Diamond crepe myrtle and red Aglaonema.



10. PLAN FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

“Folks are hesitant to have trees near their homes after witnessing the damage wrought by hurricanes,” said **Mark Tancig**, horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Leon County. “We recommend that people replant wisely by choosing species that UF/IFAS has documented as being more resilient to wind.”

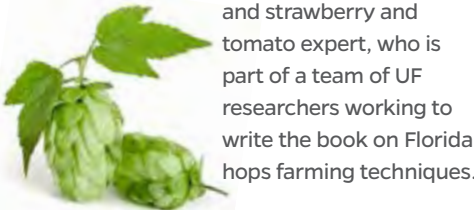
“That’s my end goal: Just to be able to say I’ve helped and made a difference.”

— BRISTOL RIGBY, U.S. NAVY VETERAN

and a UF Wildlife Conservation and Ecology undergrad, who is working with researchers to document sea turtle population dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico and create better plans to protect them.

“It’s about quality and yield. It sounds simple, but a lot goes into it.”

— SHINSUKE AGEHARA, PLANT PHYSIOLOGIST



and strawberry and tomato expert, who is part of a team of UF researchers working to write the book on Florida hops farming techniques.



UF/IFAS TYLER JONES

FROM ANTS TO AWARDS

UF entomologist **Andrea Lucky** is one of two professors nationwide whom the U.S. Department of Agriculture has recognized with a 2019 Early Career Teacher Award. Lucky teaches an introductory insects and classification course for undergraduate students, as well as a graduate class for budding professional entomologists. Her win further strengthens UF’s record of employing more national and regional USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture award-winning teachers than any other institution (19).

1ST PLACE



Rank of UF’s online master’s in mass communication degree, on Intelligent.com’s list of Best Online Master’s in

Media Communications Programs and its Top 40 Master’s in Communications Degree list. The College of Journalism and Communications’ program features specializations in audience analysis, political communication, web design, digital strategy, public relations, global strategic communication, public interest communication and social media.



Shukla

UF/IFAS TYLER JONES

\$102,000

Annual savings per crop when farmers plant in taller and narrower soil beds, as recommended by UF/IFAS agricultural and biological engineering professor **Sanjay Shukla**.

At 6 inches taller and 1 foot narrower than conventional beds, Shukla found this shape helps reduce the amount of water, fertilizers/nutrients, pesticides, fuel and plastic mulch needed to grow tomatoes, peppers and other crops. Early results show less damage from nematodes, as well. Savings calculations are based on a typical 250-acre farm. bit.ly/39B0uTG



QUARTER-CENTURY CELEBRATION OF ART



UF’s Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art turned 25 in September. Staff and patrons are celebrating this milestone, in part, with the exhibit, **“Dreaming Alice: Maggie Taylor Through the Looking-Glass.”** Taylor’s imaginative photo illustrations include the work, above, titled “Teetotum” and “He was part of my dream” at left.

Open April 5 - Jan. 3, 2021

harn.ufl.edu/dreamingalice

“In today’s world, we can’t prevent it, but we can at least analyze it. Long term, our goal is to be able to do this analysis in real time.”



— **SANJAY RANKA, A UF COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR**

whose team **won a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant** to study traffic patterns and safety hazards at high-risk intersections in order to reduce pedestrian fatalities. His team’s results will be used to redesign the intersections.

BEST PLACE FOR GATORS GEAR!



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UF HEALTH

UF Health recently opened three new specialty practices in the 139,000-square-foot former Sears space at the Oaks Mall in Gainesville.

UF HEALTH

BY THE NUMBERS

9+2

Hospitals and veterinary hospitals within the UF Health network throughout Florida

92,046

Patients (excluding newborns) admitted to UF Health hospitals during fiscal year 2018. This figure pales in comparison to the 1.64 million people who visited UF Health physicians in an outpatient setting during the same year.

24,121

Staff employed by UF Health statewide

55%

The portion of UF's total operating budget that is funded by UF Health. Student tuition contributes just 6%.

COOL TECH:

A FEW OF THE LATEST UF INNOVATIONS

More details at innovate.research.ufl.edu

FASTER ETHANOL FUEL PRODUCTION

UF's new low-pressure fermentation process enables yeast to convert sugars to alcohol more rapidly, resulting in reduced time to complete each fermentation batch. Yeast fermentation of sugars derived predominantly from corn is the main source of ethanol used for transportation fuel.



SAFER DENTAL IMPLANTS

An antibacterial coating for the titanium screw that attaches the new implant to the bone of the jaw reduces the progression of peri-implant disease, which can lead to bone loss and eventual failure of the implant.



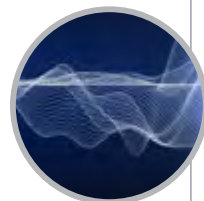
SAVING THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

A new laser wax exfoliation process for citrus plants increases the uptake of treatments applied to the foliage without causing any lasting damage. Citrus greening disease continues to cause great economic harm to Florida's citrus industry.



TESTING ... TESTING ...

A multidirectional microphone combines a small silicon piezoresistive microphone with an instrumentation amplifier to produce a modular, "all-in-one" microphone chip that enables faster, cheaper, more accurate acoustic noise testing.



GATORS TO THE RESCUE

From agriculture to plastics to energy, read about specific contributions by UF innovators that will make the world a better place.



Page 26



UF/IFAS TYLER JONES

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

BY THE NUMBERS

9.8%

Decline in the amount of Florida land used for agricultural purposes over the past 20 years, down from 265,000 acres to 239,500

73%

Increase in agriculture revenue during that same time frame, up from \$500 million to \$865 million.

"How do we maintain our agriculture base in Florida? One way is by improving the economics of the industry ... increasing efficiency, decreasing environmental impact and increasing the economic prosperity ... maintaining profitability."

— STEPHEN GRAN, director of Hillsborough County's Extension Office in Seffner

UF HOSTS SECOND SUMMIT

Global experts join forces to seek cancer cure

Dr. Duane Mitchell knows that transformation doesn't happen in a vacuum. The co-director of UF's Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy has worked on numerous clinical trials and research projects — enough to understand that impactful advances in medical science require a staunch commitment to collaboration.

This spirit of partnership was the force behind the second annual ReMission Summit Against Brain Tumors Feb. 21-23.

UF and UF Health hosted numerous neuro-oncology, tumor immunology and genetics experts at the Rosen Shingle Creek hotel in Orlando

for cutting-edge workshops focused on accelerating research findings that can turn deadly brain cancers into livable diseases within 10 years.

Last year's summit served as the launchpad for the ReMission Alliance, a UF-led partnership between many of the

world's leading brain tumor clinicians and researchers representing 12 top academic medical centers. This year's gathering reunited Alliance members for status updates on their shared efforts to discover a cure for brain cancer.

The summit began with the announcement of two major gifts: a \$3 million pledge from Remission Summit Co-Chair Anita Zucker to establish an endowed chair in neurosurgery; and a \$2 million gift from Michael and Tina Kanis toward pediatric brain tumor research in memory of their 9-year-old daughter, Caroline. Zucker, who serves as co-chair of UF's *Go Greater* campaign and vice-chair of the university's Foundation Board, said she is committed to the ReMission Alliance's

work as a tribute to her husband, Jerry, who died from a brain tumor in 2008. "The journey toward a cure will be a long and winding one," she said. "But for Jerry, and for the many brain cancer patients — past, present and future — we must remain diligently committed."



CHRIS VASQUEZ

Businesswoman Anita Zucker inspired experts with her personal stories.

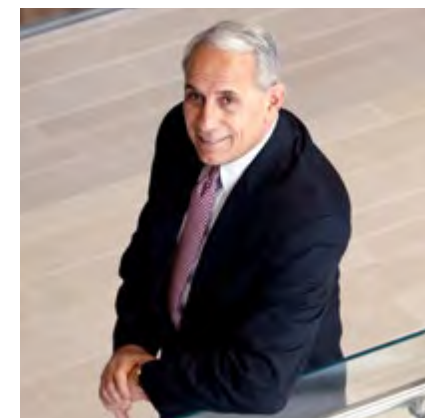


"Cybersecurity touches nearly every aspect of our daily lives. An educated workforce is needed to address issues and threats."

— JUAN GILBERT, UF'S COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CHAIR

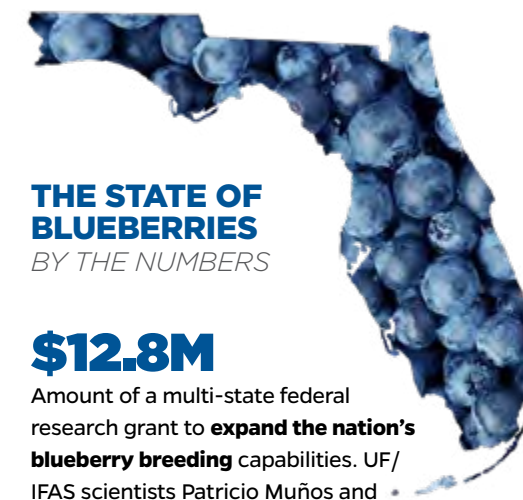
About his team's re-designation as a **National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research** through 2024. "This designation is an example of our commitment to serving the state of Florida and the nation in an area of extreme need," continued Gilbert, who is the Banks Family Preeminence Endowed Professor.

bit.ly/2UYroTk



30

Years **John Kraft** (above) has been dean of the Warrington College of Business. He retires in May.



THE STATE OF BLUEBERRIES

BY THE NUMBERS

\$12.8M

Amount of a multi-state federal research grant to **expand the nation's blueberry breeding** capabilities. UF/IFAS scientists Patricio Muñoz and Charlie Sims are on the team to lend their expertise in genetic characteristics that produce the best taste, aroma and yields, among other traits.

9

States from which university researchers are participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's blueberry industry improvement study.

\$82M

Estimated worth of Florida's blueberry industry, which encompasses only about 5,000 acres. UF scientists aim to strengthen Florida's market against global competitors.

130-PLUS

Years Florida farmers have been producing blueberries. UF scientists have aided these growers for 80+ years.

FLORIDA'S THREE MARJORIES

Mothers of Nature

“Who owns Cross Creek? The red-birds, I think, more than I, for they will have their nests even in the face of delinquent mortgages. ... It seems to me that the earth may be borrowed, but not bought. It may be used, but not owned. It gives itself in response to love and tending, offers its seasonal flowering and fruiting. But we are tenants and not possessors, lovers, and not masters. Cross Creek belongs to the wind and the rain, to the sun and the seasons, to the cosmic secrecy of seed, and beyond all, to time.”

— Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings crab gigging at Salt Springs with Norton Baskin

UF'S SMATHERS LIBRARIES IS home to several collections that chronicle the lives and works of three Florida women whose tireless work to defend their state's natural spaces has influenced generations around the world.

Although traditions during their eras suggested men were best suited for leadership roles, Marjorie Harris Carr, Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings nonetheless ensured their voices were heard in different ways. UF library collections provide unique insights to their efforts, methods and challenges, and are available to the public in the Special & Area Studies Collections on the second floor of Library East.

For more information about these collections, contact Environmental Collections Curator Florence Turcotte at turcotte@ufl.edu or visit bit.ly/39TOPTP

MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS

- Inspired people to preserve the environment by encouraging them to take pleasure in it. Her descriptions of native landscapes are still beloved today in “The Yearling,” “South Moon Under” and “Cross Creek.” The passage at left is from the latter.
- Served as a regular visiting professor at UF in Anderson Hall, sharing her insights with scores of UF students.
- Influenced her writer friends, such as Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Wolfe, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Frost and Margaret Mitchell.
- Arranged in her will to donate to UF her manuscripts and notes, which continue to inspire generations.

“Be a nuisance where it counts, but don't be a bore at any time. ... Do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action. ... Be depressed, discouraged and disappointed at failure and the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption and bad politics, but never give up.”

— Marjory Stoneman Douglas

“I am an optimist. I also believe that Floridians care about their environment. If they are educated about its perils, if they are never lied to, they will become stewards of the wild places that are left.” — Marjorie Harris Carr



Marjorie Harris Carr on the Ocklawaha River

MARJORIE HARRIS CARR

(MS Zoology '42)

- Helped establish the **Florida Defenders of the Environment**, a group of hydrologists, geologists, economists, zoologists and other concerned citizens to protect natural spaces. The group blocked the Cross Florida Barge Canal project, among other successes. Carr served as FDE's president for about 30 years.
- Led efforts to clean up the **Ocklawaha River**.
- Helped initiate the **Paynes Prairie Wildlife Refuge**, now a state preserve.
- Worked to save and restore **Lake Alice at UF**.

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

- Spent years documenting all aspects of the wetlands in South Florida, culminating in the acclaimed book **“The Everglades: River of Grass,”** which focused national attention on the need to preserve its unique ecosystem.
- At age 79, she established **Friends of the Everglades**, a group that continues to defend this marshland against developers and preserve natural habitats for wildlife.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas touring the Everglades in a pirogue.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UF SMATHERS LIBRARIES

REDEFINING CONNECTION

LEVEL UP AND EARN A WORLD-CLASS
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Choose from 8 master's specializations
and 4 graduate certificates

Audience Analytics | Digital Strategy | Global Strategic Communication
Political Communication | Public Interest Communication
Public Relations | Social Media | Web Design | Media Sales



**MASTER OF ARTS
IN MASS COMMUNICATION**
College of Journalism and Communications
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

ONLINEMASTERS.JOU.UFL.EDU

JEFF CARNEY — ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE (FIBER)



AARON DAYE

DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

COLLEGE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & PLANNING RESPONDS TO THE COMPLEX
ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS FACED BY FLORIDA AND OTHER REGIONS

Do you see your work as battling nature's effects 24/7?

They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. This is a “battle” we inevitable lose. Instead, FIBER (Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience) is working to better accommodate natural systems where we can and buffer ourselves from risk when we cannot. In either case, helping people to make better informed decisions about where and how they live drives my work.

How does FIBER make communities more resilient to changes?

Resilience is simply the capacity of a system to survive and adapt to change. FIBER is a collection of researchers from a broad range of academic pursuits who are connected through our shared focus on the built environment. FIBER's diversity of thought and methodology is its greatest asset when thinking about the complexity of whole communities.

Has your work uncovered any surprising revelations?

I have spent the last 12 years in the deep South, the last two in Florida. Despite warnings about climate change denial in this region, I can cite very few face-to-face encounters where a conversation has gone there. Most people are fully aware the environment has changed dramatically within their lifetime. They are concerned and want to do what is right for their families and communities. This should come as no surprise: People are quite rational, but it made me ponder the messaging around climate change. Specifically, does the story of climate change leave *people* out? In our efforts to help people adapt, do we sometimes inadvertently disempower them? What I've learned is trust goes

both ways. It is important that we trust people to do the right thing when empowered with knowledge. On the flip side, it is essential that the information we disseminate is actionable and relevant.

Do any other researchers at UF collaborate with your team?

Yes! FIBER is collaborating with medicine, psychology, computer science, Latin American Studies and other disciplines. I teach a class called Florida Resilient Cities (FRC) in conjunction with the Florida Climate Institute that hosts more than 21 faculty members across UF to share their research with students before we conduct a one-week field course. This year, our students spent spring break helping Port St. Joe recover from Hurricane Michael. In terms of research, the FRC program, led by FIBER, has partnerships with faculty and students from more than eight departments and four colleges driving research to parts of the state in need.

What should Floridians consider before building/buying a home?

Coastal Florida is exceptionally vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. But inland, communities are also exposed to hazards as creeks and rivers can flood and spill into constricted floodplains. Before buying a house, get to know the landscape conditions. Consider where flooding is possible now and in 10, 20 or 30 years.

Has climate change grown student interest in your field?

Yes! We know now that 35% of carbon pollution is produced by buildings, and our field's role is more important than ever. Our architecture profession has rallied behind sustainability — and more recently, resilience — as we all have a strong sense of responsibility and urgency to make a difference.



The Untamable Filipe DeAndrade

By Barbara Drake (MFA '04) | Photography provided by Filipe DeAndrade (BSTel '12)

Four minutes into “Staking Out the Elusive Mountain Lion,” a popular Nat Geo Wild video that was shot in New Mexico, its young host pauses. He points to grisly evidence of a mother lion’s proximity: a newly gnawed-off deer leg. “That is the aftermath of a mountain lion right there,” he whispers, his dark eyes scanning the horizon. “My heart is racing right now. We are definitely in cat country.”

Thirty seconds later, he and his crew stumble upon the rest of the fresh deer carcass. They quickly set up trap cameras and hightail it out before the hungry female lion returns.

By the video’s end, the team will have secured their prize: rare nighttime shots of a mountain lion family sharing a catch, plus footage of coyotes, red-tailed hawks and other animals benefiting from the mother lion’s determination to feed her two cubs — evidence, the host says, of how “apex predators keep the balance in their natural habitat.”

“She’s beautiful,” he enthuses, “a survivor.”

The mustachioed man chasing down big cats and endangered species is Brazilian-born, Cleveland-raised, UF-educated Filipe DeAndrade (BSTel '12), pronounced fil-EEP Dee-un-DRAH-dee. Hailed as “America’s answer to Steve Irwin,” DeAndrade has channeled his outsized passion for wildlife into a career as an award-winning filmmaker.

In the five years since he won National Geographic’s Wild to Inspire film competition in 2015, DeAndrade has documented the exploits of elephants, lions and rhinos for the African Wildlife Foundation and gotten up close with sharks, humpback whales, jaguars and other critters for “Untamed with Filipe DeAndrade,” his renowned Nat Geo Wild digital series.

A gifted storyteller, DeAndrade has a knack for connecting young, diverse audiences with the life-or-death struggles of animals in the wild, from a tree frog’s perilous quest for Ms. Right to a mother monkey’s desperate search for food for her baby. The “likes” by subscribers to his Nat Geo Wild YouTube channel indicate his growing popularity. But DeAndrade is driven by more than the desire for success or fame. This big-hearted Gator overcame a difficult childhood, and he credits animals with saving his life. Now he wants to return the favor.

“If there’s one way I can make my mark in this world, it’s by encouraging viewers to get out in nature,” DeAndrade said in a recent interview. “People need to have those experiences themselves to care about wildlife and to take action.

“When you fall in love with something, you fight to protect it.”

GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

DeAndrade’s other passion is the Gator Nation, and many episodes of “Untamed” find him proudly sporting a well-worn Gator bandana.

But his path to UF was fraught with dangers that at times threatened to swallow him whole.

Born in Brazil in 1986 and raised in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, DeAndrade spent his early years dodging the blows of his violent, drug-addicted father, who beat Filipe, his mother and his younger sister, Lua. For comfort, Filipe fled to the rainforest surrounding the city.

“The outdoors, and seeing the animals, really gave me salvation,” he told National Geographic in March 2017.

When he was 5, the family immigrated to the United States, settling in Cleveland, Ohio. His father abandoned them one year later, leaving Filipe’s mother to support the two children on her own. The resilient parent worked “sunrise to sundown” for minimum wage, he says, leaving Filipe to look after Lua.

Be independent, his mother stressed. Figure things out. Teach yourself.

At an early age, he picked up a Polaroid camera and fell in love. He was also drawn to wildlife documentaries, especially those about his favorite animal, the jaguar.

“They’re such solitary creatures,” says DeAndrade, “so intelligent and self-reliant. Those were traits I appreciated and aspired to.”

Awareness of his family’s illegal immigration status constantly preyed on his young mind, says DeAndrade, who became a U.S. citizen at age 20.

“When you grow up an illegal immigrant, you live in hiding, essentially,” he says. “I always connected with nature and wildlife because I was voiceless, and so were these creatures, and therefore misunderstood.

“That’s probably why I felt compelled to give a voice to the voiceless, through photography.”

GATOR TRACKS

Grade-school Filipe also developed a rare obsession among Clevelanders: a love for the Florida Gators.

At age 10, he purchased a Gator cap at a Cleveland mall; that act ushered in years of cheering the Gators on game days and doing art projects about alligators. For his senior yearbook portrait, he wore a Gator shirt.

When his girlfriend got into UF, DeAndrade borrowed her acceptance letter, digitally edited his name over hers and hung the framed document on his wall.

“I looked at that for about a year,” he says. “I told myself, ‘I’m getting into UF; I’m getting into UF.’ I saw myself sitting in classes, sitting in the student section of football games, long before it ever happened.”

Backed by a strong application, the visualization worked.

“NATURE WAS MY TEACHER”

DeAndrade entered the UF College of Journalism and Communications’ (CJC), Department of Telecommunication, in 2006 as a production major, with a minor in wildlife ecology and conservation.

Among his most important influences was CJC associate professor Tim Sorel, a working documentary filmmaker who teaches storytelling and film production.

“Professor Sorel created an ecosystem where we could work outside the classroom and apply all the things we were learning to the real world,” says



Two seconds into DeAndrade’s five-minute Nat Geo clip “Why Eagles, Falcons and Hawks Are Top Predators,” it’s easy to see exactly why his show, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube followings are gaining popularity daily. See video from this moment in New Mexico by searching the web for “Excuse Me, There’s a Hawk on You: Bonus Scene.”

DeAndrade. “He was constantly doing commercials and films and inviting his students to participate.”

Despite working and taking a full load of classes each semester, DeAndrade always made it a priority to photograph outdoors. Five days a week, he would hop on his motorcycle and head to Paynes Prairie, the Sweetwater Watershed or the beaches of St. Augustine to observe and film animals in the wild.

“Nature was my teacher,” he says.

“There is no track in school or even in the real world for becoming a wildlife photographer. You learn by being thrown in the fire and making mistakes.

“It all comes back to that foundation my mom instilled in me: ‘Figure it out.’”

THE BIG BREAK

Two days after graduating from UF in May 2012, DeAndrade began hiking the Appalachian Trail under the AT alias “Dick Flap.” On the six-month journey, cooking on a stove made from a cat food tin and filming every step of the way, he reveled in the trail’s solitude and beauty. The footage would later come in handy.

For the next two years, he worked at a production company in New York City, earning 19 Emmy nominations and 10 Emmy Awards as a director of photography. But by 2015, he had enough of the sooty Big Apple.

That’s when he saw National Geographic’s call for young filmmakers to submit a short film about their personal wildlife story. The prize? A four-month

opportunity to film in Tanzania for Nat Geo and the African Wildlife Foundation.

Borrowing his mother’s Ford Taurus, DeAndrade spent the next five weeks photographing wildlife throughout Florida. He combined that with footage from the Appalachian Trail, along with time-lapse imagery shot out west with his former classmate, filmmaker Brian Moghari (BSTel ’13).

At the 2015 Sun Valley Film Festival, DeAndrade’s four-minute film “Adapt” beat out hundreds of competitors to win the second annual Wild to Inspire contest. In his emotionally powerful work, DeAndrade lays bare how he found his voice through the camera lens, stating, “If nature was my savior, then photography was my soulmate.”

“EYE-GASMIC” WILDLIFE

DeAndrade’s subsequent standout work in Africa led to an offer to produce his own digital series for Nat Geo Wild, a global pay TV network specializing in what the industry calls “personality-driven wildlife adventures.”

Together with fellow UF grads Moghari and McKenzie Barney (BSTel ’12), DeAndrade formed a production house called Comfort Theory. Ditching the New York lease, he repurposed a 2006 Dodge ambulance as a camper (nicknamed “Florence the Manbulance”), and the team crisscrossed the country in search of unexpected, beautiful and threatened animals.

“The biodiversity that exists in this continent is on fire,” DeAndrade told

Uproxx in April 2017. “There are things you don’t see anywhere else, like dolphins [strand]-feeding in South Carolina.” (The dolphins hydroplane onto the beach, driving their prey forward on the sand.)

First airing in March 2017, “Untamed with Filipe DeAndrade” uses stunning HD camerawork to reveal the daily dramas unfolding among rhesus macaques in Central Florida, mountain lions and raptors in New Mexico, and alligators and crocs in the Everglades. Set in Costa Rica, season 2 of “Untamed” finds the Comfort Theory team tracking Central American hummingbirds, sea turtles, jaguars and sharks — all through the lens of DeAndrade’s deep love for endangered and misunderstood species, mixed with his unorthodox humor.

A brightly colored hummingbird is “eye-gasmic.” A male jumping spider who successfully woos a cannibalistic female is “the Fabio of jumping spiders.”

“It’s pretty crazy to think that he has to go through an onslaught of dead bodies just to get some action,” continues DeAndrade in his voiceover for “The Weird Sex Lives of Jumping Spiders.”

“If she likes him, she’ll let him mate with her. If not, she’ll eat him. And if she’s my kind of woman, she’ll do both.”

A GATOR HOMECOMING

Since wrapping his second season of “Untamed,” DeAndrade has made Costa



FROM LEFT ARE COMFORT THEORY TEAMMATES BRIAN MOGHARI (BSTEL '13), FILIPE DEANDRADE (BSTEL '12) AND FORMER UF SOCCER STANDOUT MCKENZIE BARNEY (BSTEL '12). BARNEY HAS SINCE STARTED HER OWN TREK AROUND THE WORLD (SEE PAGE 52).

Rica his permanent home and starred in the 2019 documentary “The River and the Wall.” The critically acclaimed film follows five friends as they journey from El Paso, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico to explore the potential ecological impacts of building a border wall along the Rio Grande.

On Oct. 22, 2019, DeAndrade had an emotional homecoming when he appeared at UF’s Phillips Center to give audiences an unfiltered look at his adventures in wildlife filmmaking. He admits he was nervous.

“I’m not gonna lie,” he says. “That night I had more slip-ups, and I could feel the trembling in my voice; it was the least-smooth show I’ve done.”

The crowd loved it, though, including his former UF photography professor, who jokingly admitted in a Q-and-A session he was glad DeAndrade did not follow the advice he once gave him: “Don’t photograph any more frogs!”

The Phillips Center event sparked some new ideas for his future:

“One of the things I want to do is come back and teach at UF,” says DeAndrade, “maybe in two or three decades, when I start to, like, potentially slow down a bit.”

Given his current predilection for chasing mountain lions and diving with sharks, it is hard to imagine this fireplug slowing down for anything, but the comment reveals how much his alma mater means to him.

“My time at UF set the foundation for my life,” he says. “Instead of dreaming and hoping, I was able to make plans and act on them.”

He advises his fellow alums to go for their heart’s desires and never take “no” for an answer:

“Make your happiness a priority,” he says. “Stop at nothing to turn your dream into a reality.

“When someone says you can’t do something, chop that negativity up into logs and throw it in the fire that fuels you.”

DEANDRADE FILMED THESE DOLPHINS IN SOUTH CAROLINA WHERE THEY WERE STRAND-FEEDING, OR HYDROPLANING ONTO THE BEACH TO DRIVE FISH UP ONTO THE SAND.

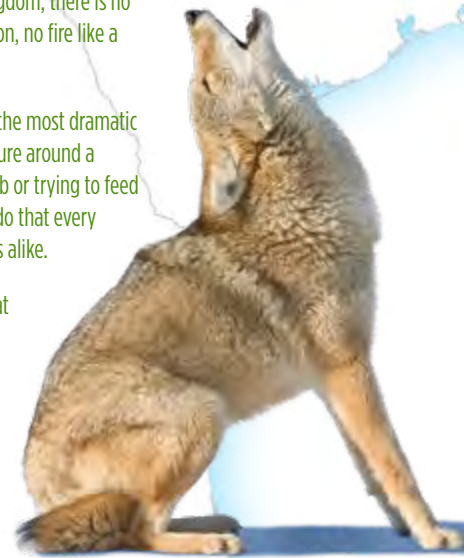


IN EVERY SPECIES: FEMALES RULE

“Females are the most formidable force in nature. In the animal kingdom, there is no strength, no determination, no fire like a mother’s love.

“I’ve witnessed some of the most dramatic storylines play out in nature around a mother defending her cub or trying to feed her chicks — and moms do that every day, animals and humans alike.

“Hard situations pull great things out of us. We rise to the occasion.”



NEW MEXICO:
COYOTES AND
MOUNTAIN LIONS

SOUTH CAROLINA:
DOLPHINS

SEA TURTLES: KEEP THE FAITH

For season 1 of “Untamed,” Comfort Theory went to St. Augustine to film baby sea turtles hatching. After six days of nest patrol with nothing to show for it, DeAndrade was left alone on the beach.

“I thought, ‘If we don’t capture this moment, we don’t have an episode. And then we lose our contract with Nat Geo Wild, and I’ll have to crawl into a hole and never come out,’” he said.

“So on that seventh night, this little tiny alien comes up out of the ground ... and starts darting toward the ocean. Then the Atlantic Ocean engulfs these turtles and takes them on the voyage of life.

“I was crying behind the camera the whole time. So worth the wait!”



FLORIDA:
SEA TURTLES,
RHESUS
MACAQUES
AND GATORS

What Animals Have Taught Me (and where they’ve taken me.)

Photographing diverse animal species has taught Filipe DeAndrade valuable lessons, he says. Here are some of the most memorable.

SHARKS: LET GO OF FEAR

“The first time I ever got in the water with sharks was in Fiji. I had to get in the water with 12-foot-long bull sharks, notoriously the most aggressive shark. Honestly, I was afraid.

So I entered this crystal-clear water to film these apex predators, and you know what? It was the most calming and medicinal experience in my life.

I realized sharks are like all animals: when you are patient and don’t chase them, after a while they get curious. Sharks aren’t these mindless man-eaters like they’ve been portrayed. We base so many decisions off fear. More often than not, that fear is irrational.”

FIJI:
SHARKS

JAGUAR: BECOME THE ANIMAL

“I was fortunate to have my first National Geographic documentary be about jaguars because they’re my favorite animal. That experience taught me that to capture the honest essence of what an animal is, you have to mold yourself into the species.

“So, I slept all day and was up all night because I had to be alert when the jaguars were most active. I followed what they hunt because to find the predator, you have to find the prey.

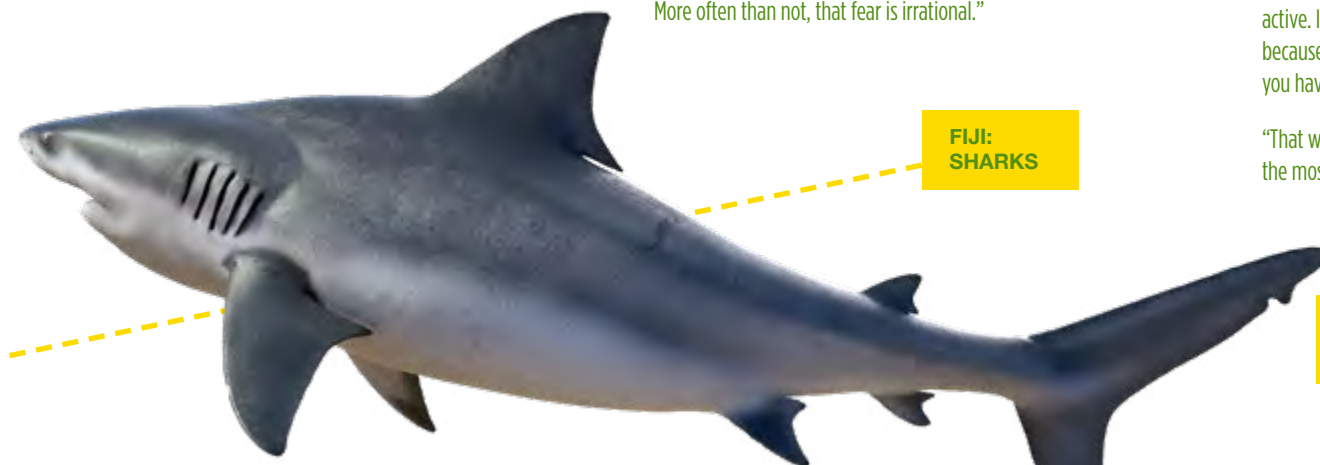
“That was how I was able to get the most footage of the jaguar.”



CENTRAL AMERICA:
HUMMIGBIRDS
AND JUMPING
SPIDERS

COSTA RICA:
JAGUARS

TANZANIA:
ELEPHANTS AND MEERCATS



WHO'S WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT?

GATOR INVENTORS, NATURALLY!

FEEDING the world

Farming is one of the most complicated and risky occupations on Earth. For starters, the agriculture industry battles a plethora of threats each season, from biological diseases (citrus greening and white mold) to pests (armyworms and whiteflies) to natural events (flooding, drought and red tide). Profit margins are often thin, but without farmers' hard work and passion, humans around the world would surely suffer. See how UF researchers are helping farmers through these new technologies and processes.



TO SPRAY OR NOT TO SPRAY

Disease-causing fungus is a prime nemesis of Florida's strawberry farmers, who spend much of their profits on weekly chemical sprays from November to March to keep the mold at bay. Addressing this issue, UF scientists developed an online advisory system that can guide farmers on exactly when to spray fungicides, reducing the amount of chemicals, fuel and labor used. The UF system integrates local weather data, such as temperature and humidity, with best management practices, such as leaf wetness, to determine the optimal times to spray. For details, visit www.agroclimate.org/tools/strawberry.

Advantages

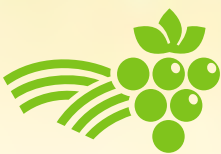
- Reduces amount of fungicide used and human exposure to these chemicals
- Saves farmers money (projections estimate \$1.7 million over 10 years)
- Reduces instances of fungicide resistance, due to overuse

SUPER BEES THAT ARE IMMUNE TO TOXINS

Honey bees are the major pollinator for a variety of crops and contribute at least \$15 billion to the value of U.S. agriculture annually through increased yields and superior-quality harvests. As such, maintaining bee health is a global priority. In 2019, losses in honey bee colonies were estimated at a record-high 40% due to 1) the spread of pathogens and pests, 2) the lack of a constant food source throughout the year, and 3) the widespread use of domestic and agricultural pesticides. Addressing this last cause, UF researchers invented a way to engineer bacteria that only live in bees so they have the ability to detoxify insecticides that might be on the pollen and nectar they collect.

Advantages

- Protects bee colonies, mitigating the harmful effects of low levels of toxins
- Protects the potential of food crops



THIS SHOT WON'T HURT A BIT

Grape growers have come to fear Pierce's disease, which is caused by a bacteria spread by insects as they hop from leaf to leaf. This bacteria blocks the xylem vessels, which conduct water around the plant. Once a plant is infected, entire grapevines will die within five years. (Healthy grapevines can live up to 100 or more years.) Addressing this scourge, UF researcher Donald Hopkins identified a naturally occurring, non-pathogenic strain of the bacteria that when used as an inoculation prevents or delays the development of Pierce's disease. What's more, he discovered that citrus trees inoculated with the strain appear to show resistance against the infection that produces citrus greening disease, which has decimated citrus production throughout the Southeast.

Advantages

- Prevents or delays the onset of Pierce's disease and citrus greening
- Reduces the need for insecticides that farmers currently use to kill sharpshooter insects
- Reduces off-target pesticide killings of other insects, such as bees



READY, AIM ... SPRAY

Vegetable farmers often cover their soil beds with plastic to prevent weed growth and improve their control of soil conditions. First, they spray the entire planting row with pre-emergent herbicide, then cover each row with plastic, punch holes through the plastic and into the soil, and plant vegetable transplants into those holes. However, the common broadleaf and grass weeds only grow in the holes punched for the transplants – meaning a far greater quantity of herbicide than is necessary is used. UF researchers developed a precision herbicide applicator that attaches to standard hole-punching equipment and delivers herbicide only to the exposed soil. What's more, the device allows farmers to conduct every step of their planting process in a single pass, saving time and fuel.

Advantages

- Applies herbicide only to exposed soil, reducing its use by 45% to 85%
- Enables simultaneous hole punching and herbicide application, saving farmers time, labor and fuel costs



FIGHTING THE RESISTANCE

UF startup Curtiss Healthcare plans to release a vaccine for chickens later this year with the goal of helping poultry farmers achieve antibiotic-free health among their flocks. Historically, health threats such as salmonella, E.coli and cholera have plagued flocks. Chicken farmers responded by adding antibiotics to the birds' feed. However, this long-term, broad-scale use is thought to contribute to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. UF's Dr. Roy Curtiss developed a vaccine that protects birds against one of the more prevalent diseases, necrotic enteritis, which can kill 15% to 20% of a flock. Curtiss says other vaccines in development also address tuberculosis, typhoid, hepatitis and even a variety of diseases that affect aquaculture-raised fish.

Advantages

- Eliminates the overuse of antibiotics in animals
- Saves farmers money, increasing profits
- Provides a healthier product for human carnivores

two words: BETTER PLASTICS

Perhaps one of our planet's biggest environmental threats, these oil- and natural gas-based products require hundreds of years to decompose and are a main form of litter worldwide. Their chemicals also leach into soil and water, polluting the places wildlife and humans live.

Available bioplastics, such as those made from corn, usually rely on costly fermentation processes and have sub-standard thermal properties. Global demand for bioplastics is expected to reach 2.7 metric tons by 2023.

Here's what UF students and faculty researchers are doing about the problems with plastics:



HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

One UF team developed a class of thermoplastics designed to decompose under the natural conditions of a landfill during a timescale of months to years. But unlike other biodegradable plastics on the market, it possesses properties in line with robust petroleum-based plastics. The result? Sturdy products that may give traditional plastics a run for their money.

Advantages

- Decomposes quickly and under natural conditions
- Can be shaped and remolded



LESS LURKING IN LANDFILLS

Until now, "bioplastics" have not had appreciable degradation benefits over petroleum-based plastics because they only decompose under conditions that are difficult to achieve in traditional outdoor landfills. They require significant microbial activity, which is typically only present in industrial composting facilities. Addressing this issue, UF researchers developed a system that produces polymers that degrade under abiotic conditions (no microbial activity), overcoming this obstacle.

Advantages

- Superior degradation properties provide a competitive advantage over decomposing plastics now available



PLANT-BASED AND PLENTIFUL

UF researchers designed a sustainable alternative to the form of petroplastics (also called PET — those produced from crude oil or natural gas) that companies demand most by using lignin, an abundant naturally occurring organic polymer found in plants. This bioplastic is the first truly viable substitute for PET.

Advantages

- Polymer is biodegradable and recyclable
- Cost effective because it's made from potentially inexpensive raw materials



JUST ADD WATER

The packaging industry has traditionally relied on a handful of cheap and durable commercial polymers, such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polystyrene to make its plastics. However, UF researchers developed a polyester from a bio-based acid that has a higher level of heat/cold resistance and degrades rapidly when in contact with water. This material can replace the plastics currently used to make such items as medical syringes and packaging containers.

Advantages

- Degrades in water over one year's time
- Exhibits shelf life around one decade under dry conditions

smarter ENERGY

From computer systems to air conditioners, sophisticated living requires a constant and steady power source. And as technologies improve, humans are demanding — and consuming — more energy. Estimates say carbon dioxide emissions from computing systems will reach 1.54 metric gigatons this year, which will make information technology companies the largest contributors to greenhouse emissions. Check out the following Gator inventions and strategies that are improving the way we create, use and reuse energy.



POWERING THE CLOUD

All major companies, universities, banks and government institutions have data centers that store information and maintain their computer networks. These temperature-controlled centers house systems and components, such as servers, power supplies, backup power equipment, chillers, cables, fire and water detection systems, and security controls. A single large data center's energy usage can exceed 30 megawatts, comparable to the energy usage of a small town. Available power management schemes cause slow job turnaround time and poor service. So, UF researchers developed a power-management tool that makes these data centers more efficient in terms of energy usage and performance.

Advantages

- Harnesses energy generated on-site
- Takes advantage of energy loads, avoids supply tracking performance costs



LOWER ELECTRIC BILLS

A large percentage of U.S. electricity is spent heating water and cooling, heating and dehumidifying buildings. The average household spends more than \$500 per year on water heating alone. One attempt to reduce energy use is the absorption cycle process, which captures and repurposes low-grade heat to dehumidify, heat and cool. However, existing absorption technology is not scalable and not feasible for residential water heating. Addressing this problem, UF researchers developed a compact, high-efficiency, open absorption cycle device capable of dehumidification, water heating and evaporative cooling. Plus, it uses a non-corrosive, non-toxic liquid that does not crystallize like traditional refrigerants.

Advantages

- Consolidates three devices into one machine, saving space and electricity
- Uses an environmentally friendly refrigerant



SUN-POWERED TECH

Experts predict that 15% to 20% of the world's electricity will be supplied through solar options by 2040. But solar systems have inherent challenges, such as inclement weather or cloud cover, energy losses and battery size limits. Solving this issue, UF researchers developed hardware and software that significantly improve computer server energy efficiency and performance without the need for batteries. Called SolarCore, this hardware enables multicore processors to autonomously and efficiently harvest solar energy. Meanwhile, the team's iSwitch software allows servers to switch from renewable power to traditional utility power (or another energy source), as needed. Together, SolarCore and iSwitch save money by optimizing renewable energy use.

Advantages

- Facilitates "green" computing, resulting in lower energy costs
- Maximizes solar energy use

great CHEMISTRY

Modern, sophisticated living is possible for humans in part because of available and affordable compounds used as food additives, pharmaceuticals, dyes, polymers, pesticides, waste treatments and a myriad of other uses. While chemicals provide a plethora of positives, they can also pose a threat to our natural environments. See how Gators are addressing these concerns.

BETTER WAYS TO BOND

When making industrial chemicals, there are a few go-to compounds that chemists use as building blocks for complex molecules. The problem is that the process for combining these compounds (specifically nitroaromatic and heterocyclic derivatives) is not environmentally sound. It generates by-products and has other challenges, such as poor selectivity and low yield. UF chemists developed a biocatalyst system to address these issues. Their new process is more efficient and creates a higher degree of selectivity and a minimal impact on the environment.

Advantages

- Eliminates environmentally unfriendly by-products
- Enzymes increase selectivity and yield
- Expands use in making products with specific requirements



YESTERDAY'S TRASH, TODAY'S ROADS

When commercial or municipal incinerators reduce waste to ash, that ash must be stored in secure landfills — at significant costs — because it has the potential to leach concentrations of heavy metals. However, UF researchers developed a filtering and curing treatment that immobilizes contaminants in bottom ash and creates a properly graded and usable aggregate product for use in asphalt, an environmentally safe concrete or as a roadway base. As municipal waste combustion generates 7million to 8 million tons of ash in the U.S. annually, this process can save an enormous amount of containment money, as well as landfill space.

Advantages

- Removes environmental hazards and creates beneficial properties in recycled materials
- Encourages reuse of municipal debris, reducing waste in landfills
- Creates a low-cost alternative material for cement production



MORE TRASH AND MORE BUILDING MATERIALS

The concrete and cement industry is expected to grow 8% by 2023. Cement plants worldwide utilize a rotary kiln to generate the clinker (stony residue from furnace-burned material) used to make Portland cement, the most common cement type that is a basic ingredient in concrete, mortar, stucco and some grout types. However, these kilns contribute to total greenhouse gas emissions and limit the efficiency of cement manufacturing. UF researchers invented a highly efficient plasma arc reactor that eliminates fuel-borne CO2 emissions and enables the use of recycled waste to make clinker.

Advantages

- Allows the use of nonorganic waste materials to produce clinker, reducing the carbon footprint of cement manufacturing
- Operates on grid power or renewable battery banks, cutting the fuel-borne CO2 emissions of cement plants
- Avoids clinker contamination by fuel combustion residues and refractories
- Forms clinker at temperatures above rotary kiln maximums, dramatically increasing cement production efficiency



BANISHING THE BLOODSUCKERS

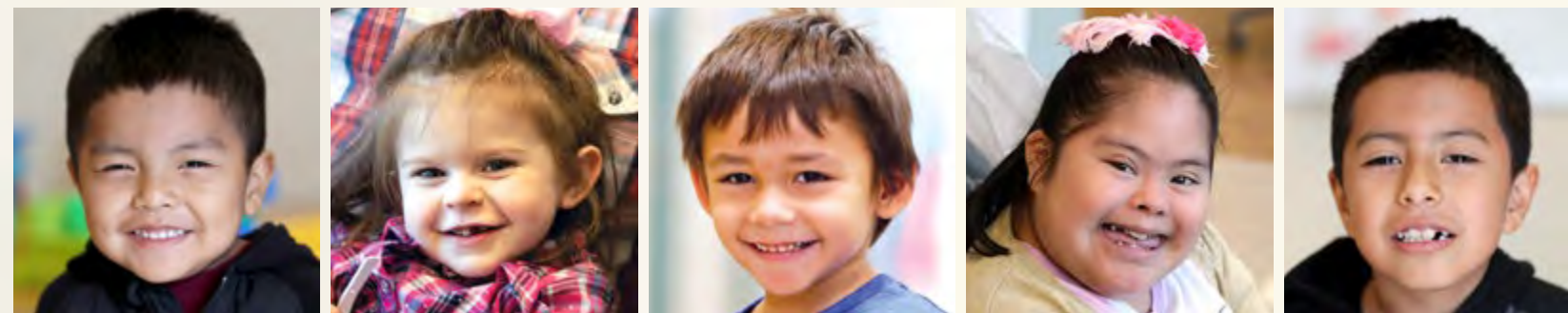
Mosquitoes are prolific spreaders of diseases, such as malaria, Zika and yellow fever. Now that UF researchers working with Florida Insect Control Group have focused their sights on the source of mosquito populations — water sources where the insects rest, breed and deposit eggs — so humans can have a better chance of avoiding these nasty illnesses. Historically, the prime obstacle is that pesticides degrade in water. The UF group, however, identified a chemical that requires water to work and developed a polymeric coating that releases small amounts of the pesticide over long periods of time. What's more, at concentrations that kill mosquitoes and their larvae, this pesticide is harmless to pets and wildlife who might consume the treated water. Marketed under the company name OO-ZZZero, scientists developed two complementary products to control mosquitoes: a chip that can be tossed into standing water and a container that attracts and traps mosquitoes and releases an insecticide into water inside the trap. Early tests in a Honduran village were remarkable: Untreated areas around the village had cases of dengue, Chikungunya and Zika viruses, while the treated areas of the village had no cases.

Advantages

- Controls mosquito populations at the source
- Low maintenance and long-acting
- Safe for pets and wildlife
- Prevents the spread of potentially deadly diseases



FINALLY, SOMETHING TO smile ABOUT



STORY BY BARBARA DRAKE (MFA '04) | PHOTOS BY AARON DAYE

A BOY WITH BABY TEETH SO DECAYED HE NEEDS 11 CROWNS. A 2-YEAR-OLD ANESTHETIZED TO REMOVE FIVE ABSCESSSED TEETH. CHILDREN WHO CAN'T EAT, CAN'T SLEEP, CAN'T CONCENTRATE IN SCHOOL BECAUSE OF DENTAL PAIN. A 2005 STUDY FOUND A "CATASTROPHIC CRISIS IN ORAL HEALTH" AMONG COLLIER COUNTY CHILDREN. **A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WITH UF HAS RESTORED HEALTH AND HOPE.**

Bridget Burton hugs her middle child, 5-year-old Carmelo Morales, who suffered from rampant tooth decay and had 11 crowns put on his teeth at Physicians Regional Medical Center in 2019. Now he can chew properly and no longer cries in his bedroom from pain.



NCEF PEDIATRIC DENTAL CLINIC

Opened: December 2008 | **Ages served:** Birth to 21 | **Patient visits to date:** 145,000
Current partners: Naples Children & Education Foundation, UF College of Dentistry, Florida SouthWestern State College's Collier campus, Physicians Regional Medical Center, Lee Health/Golisano Children's Hospital | **Insurance accepted:** Medicaid, Florida KidCare, private insurance

They enter the sunlit lobby of the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center, in Naples, clutching a parent's hand, suffering from some of the most severe dental problems ever seen. Third graders who have never held a toothbrush, their jaws aching with pus-filled abscesses. Toddlers with baby teeth rotted down to the gums. Four-year-olds with so much decay, their mouths are pitch black when they open wide to say "ahh."

Most dental providers in Collier County can't or won't treat these young children. Few accept the Medicaid many of their families rely on, if they have insurance at all. Nor do most pediatric dentists have access to an anesthesiologist to fully sedate children needing many teeth extracted or capped in one sitting. Even if a provider does offer such advanced services, the high cost is nearly always beyond the reach of working families.

But not at the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center. Since opening in late 2008, this world-class facility has provided top-rate, highly affordable care to tens of thousands of at-risk and underprivileged youth from Collier and neighboring counties — transforming children's smiles and well-being.

It is all due to a remarkable partnership forged more than a decade ago between the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) and the UF College of Dentistry, with support from Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), area hospitals and state and local agencies.

Parents, of course, are deeply grateful — like Bridget Burton, a mother of five whose middle child, 5-year-old Carmelo Morales, had rampant tooth decay mainly from eating too many sweets. A patient since 2017, Carmelo bravely underwent general anesthesia at Physicians Regional Medical Center in November 2019 to have seven stainless steel crowns put on his back teeth, plus four white crowns in front. Now he can chew properly and no longer cries in his bedroom from pain, said Bridget.

"I've never had the level of care he's had here, with any of my kids," said Bridget. "I've been taking kids to the dentist for 12 years. "This clinic is a lifesaver."

Closing the Oral Care Gap

The beautiful seaside town of Naples boasts multimillion-dollar mansions, luxurious yachts and arguably more golf holes per capita than anywhere in the United States. But head inland in Collier County and you encounter low income and impoverished communities, including those of seasonal farmworkers in Immokalee, where families live on \$9,496 to \$24,556 a year, according to U.S. government data.

To address this wide income gap — borne so heavily by the county's children — local philanthropists founded the Naples Children & Education Foundation in 2000. Supported with proceeds from the high-profile Naples Winter Wine Festival,

NCEF has invested more than \$191 million in programs that "significantly improve the physical, emotional and educational lives" of local children, according to its mission statement.

A 2005 study commissioned by NCEF revealed a "catastrophic crisis in oral health" among Collier children. More than a third (17,000) had no access to basic dental care. At one elementary school, nearly 70% of students had untreated decay, and 18% had abscesses, swelling and other problems requiring immediate help.

The youngsters' poor oral health affected nearly every aspect of their lives, explained Dr. Lauren Governale (BS '80, DMD '85, MPH '91), director of the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center:

"It wasn't just that these children weren't able to eat well, sleep well or even smile; their self-esteem was actually impacted negatively by having severe dental decay."

To solve these problems, NCEF had to go big — and it did.

The foundation granted more than \$9 million to the UF College of Dentistry to build a 20,000-square-foot state-of-the-art dental



(Above) Deisy Morales Gomez, 9, has Down syndrome (DS), which complicates her dental care, explained second-year resident Dr. Kristen Dreyer. Children with DS are prone to crowded teeth and often need their parents' help to brush. In addition, children with special needs are often unable to verbalize when they are in pain.

(At left) The first LEED-certified building in Collier County, the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center was designed to welcome patients and their families with bright colors and well-lit spaces.



Marie Jeanbaptiste, at right, said this is the only dental clinic in which her autistic son is relaxed and comfortable.



Carmelo Morales, age 5, is cradled by his mother, Bridget Burton, while resident Dr. John Tawadrous checks his progress.

center and clinic at FSW’s Collier campus, with programs for community outreach and prevention. To treat the most serious cases, the center partnered with Physicians Regional and Lee Health to provide weekly access to operating rooms.

Governale was picked to lead the center prior to its opening in December 2008. Since then, she has happily put in 15-hour workdays to nurture the clinic into the public-health success story it has become.

“It’s been fun and wonderful and very rewarding,” she said. “We have completed about 145,000 patient visits to date, a couple thousand operating-room cases, and 1,500 IV sedation cases.

“We even have referrals from pediatric dentists from the community for work that is too extensive [for them],” she added.

School for Smiles

Collier County’s sky-high incidence of childhood tooth decay is due to a tangle of factors.

“Many families have socioeconomic barriers to care — they are uninsured, or they have language barriers,” explained faculty member Dr. Kelly Magher (BA ’97, DMD ’02), who noted many clients are Hispanic or Latino.

On top of that, only 9% of Collier County’s 212 dentists accept Medicaid, as compared to 18% of dentists statewide. Even fewer

dentists may be actively seeing Medicaid patients, especially young children. As youngsters’ names are added to long waiting lists, small cavities turn into full-blown emergencies.

Feeding the crisis is ignorance of good oral hygiene practices.

“With very young children, I will say the main cause [of decay] is the prolonged use of a baby bottle with high-fructose beverages — chocolate milk, juice,” said Susan Gorman, the college’s dental outreach program coordinator.

In the center’s education room, parents — many of whom speak Spanish — receive instruction from community health educator Dr. Maria Elena Davila, who effortlessly switches between discussions of teeth and *dentales*.

Gorman also oversees the community outreach program, which provides free dental screenings for third graders in 34 Collier County elementary schools. Fourteen schools participate in a preventative dental-sealant program.

The outreach program also travels to six early learning centers to screen and treat children 6 months to 5 years. From 2017 to 2019, untreated decay among children at the Guadalupe Center, in Immokalee, declined from 48% to 38%; the number of youngsters with urgent dental needs dropped by more than half.

“I don’t think, I know we are definitely making a difference,” said Gorman proudly.

Cream-of-the-Crop Residents

The center’s heart is its residency training program, run by the UF College of Dentistry. About 200 applicants compete for six coveted openings each year; when their specialized training is up, it is not unusual for some residents to score in the top 3% of the national pediatric dentistry boards.

Unlike typical residencies, where student doctors may see only two or three patients daily, the center’s residents each see up to 24 patients in a day. That experience gives them the edge.

“We learn how to work at 100% capacity,” said Dr. John Tawadrous, a second-year resident, “doing everything the best way possible, but efficiently.”

“You are exposed to challenging things here as a resident,” added Magher, a former resident herself. “After your two years here, you are pretty much prepared to take on any situation.”

Rare and Life-Threatening

“Any situation” can include rare and even life-threatening conditions.

In 2019, mom-of-two Stacia Lynne Wilkin noticed her youngest, 2-year-old Grayson Valdez, fought her every time she tried to brush his teeth. The boy’s gums were red and swollen; his

teeth near the gum line were yellow. She quickly scheduled an appointment at the center.

Tawadrous ruled out poor hygiene as the cause of the boy’s dental problems; rather, they resembled symptoms of a rare autoimmune disorder, and he referred the boy to a hematologist.

It turned out Grayson has cyclic neutropenia, which is the inability to produce enough white blood cells to fight off infections; symptoms often first show in the mouth, which is normally full of bacteria. Grayson, now 3, is receiving medical treatment for this extremely rare disease and uses special rinses to keep his mouth free of infection.

“Had Dr. Tawadrous not recognized what was going on in my son’s mouth, I would have never known to take my son in for blood work,” says Wilkin. “I am so, so grateful.”

Residents also get to work on unusual conditions that, if left untreated, can crumple a child’s self-esteem.

On a recent weekday, first-year resident Dr. Emily Ross, deftly performed an oral exam on 2-year-old Shiloh Travis, who sat on the lap of her mother, Michele Travis. Dressed to impress in a pink plaid top and metallic-pink cowgirl boots, Shiloh gave a big “ahh” so Ross could peer inside her tiny mouth.

Watching intently from the sidelines was her father Ken Travis. He shares the same genetic tooth disorder (dentinogenesis imperfecta) that causes teeth to be weak and gray, and has

mastered how to smile naturally without showing any teeth. But little Shiloh won't have to learn that skill.

In mid-November, second-year resident Dr. Lauren Melendez extracted five abscessed teeth from her gums and put crowns on the rest of her teeth. Now Shiloh has a beautiful white smile. And no more pain.

"You have all these princess crowns on your teeth!" cheered a dental assistant, handing Shiloh a pink-and-purple toothbrush with a bunny head.

Shiloh's face lighted up.

The little girl now collects toy medical kits and plays dentist with Mom and Dad. They say the center's positivity has rubbed off on Shiloh's willingness to take good care of her teeth.

"The staff at the center has been awesome," said Ken. "They continue to be warm and inviting."

Distractions and Extractions

The clinic has also carved a niche for children with special needs.

On a Friday morning in November, Deisy Morales Gomez, 9, flicked back her long dark hair, hopped onto the examination chair and grinned for the camera as her mother, Maria Gomez, stated the obvious: "Deisy likes it here."

Given that Deisy recently had three teeth extracted, two cavities filled and two stainless steel crowns placed, her willingness to cooperate was all the more impressive.

Deisy has Down syndrome, which complicates her dental care, explained second-year resident Dr. Kristen Dreyer (BS '13, DMD



First-year resident Dr. Emily Ross shows 2-year-old Shiloh Travis a fun way to brush with a new bunny toothbrush.

'18). Children with DS are prone to crowded teeth and often need their parents' help to brush. In addition, children with special needs are often unable to verbalize when they are in pain. Parents must carefully watch for physical and behavioral clues: a child touching his or her face, for example, or not eating.

The center also offers a drill-free way to stop cavities: silver diamine fluoride. The clear liquid, which turns black on contact, painlessly arrests decay. The unsightly color can be tolerated until the baby tooth falls out or can be filled.

In four minutes flat, first-year dentistry resident Ashley Daniels gives Ashton Jeanbaptiste, a 7-year-old with severe autism, the dental care he needs while staff distract him with a red toy helicopter and encouraging conversation. Highly choreographed procedures like this one have become routine for this skilled team of dedicated professionals.

One Thursday morning in November, first-year resident Dr. Ashley Daniels demonstrated the product's usefulness with Ashton Jeanbaptiste, a 7-year-old with severe autism. As helpers distracted Ashton with a toy helicopter, Daniels swiftly dabbed the liquid onto a decayed tooth. In minutes, Ashton's treatment was over. His mother, Marie Jeanbaptiste, sighed with relief.

"I am happy to be in the clinic because they are the only ones who can help me with him," she said. "Other places were only able to do X-rays. But here they can do the cleanings and the treatments. They are so kind and nice with him."

"Open Big Like a Lion"

Whether a child has special needs or not, all pediatric dentists face the same challenge: getting their young patients to cooperate.

On a Friday morning in November, 5-year-old Carmelo sat on his mom's lap in the exam room, bawling. It had been two weeks since his big operation, and now Tawadrous was going to fit him



Little Carmelo Morales came to the clinic crying and left smiling — another example of the way UF dentists are striving to change children's healthcare experiences.

with an orthodontic spacer. But Carmelo was having none of it, so the resident announced a change of plans: Just an oral exam today.

"We need cooperation from the patient to fit the spacers, and he's obviously not ready," said Tawadrous. "I don't want to force it."

"Can you look up for me?" he said to Carmelo, pointing to the ceiling. "Do you brush your teeth at home?"

Carmelo nodded, tears drying on his face.

"Good job. Can you open very big like a lion? Can you stick your tongue out at me? Can you say 'nah nah nah pooh pooh?'"

The child dissolved in giggles. A few minutes later, he was standing calmly in the hallway, marveling at his new Thor sticker. He would return next week for the spacer.

"He came in crying; he left smiling. A successful dentist visit," said Tawadrous.

"Right, buddy?" he asked Carmelo, holding up his palm.

NCEF, the UF College of Dentistry and thousands of happy patients and their parents would definitely high-five that.



THE "REAL" TOOTH FAIRY

When children from the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center go to nearby Physicians Regional Medical Center for oral surgery, a special friend watches over them.

She gives them a plush toy to hug in the operating room, and when they wake, that plushy is right by their bedside. If the dentist extracted any teeth, their nightstand will also hold a colorful plastic cup with a dollar bill inside.

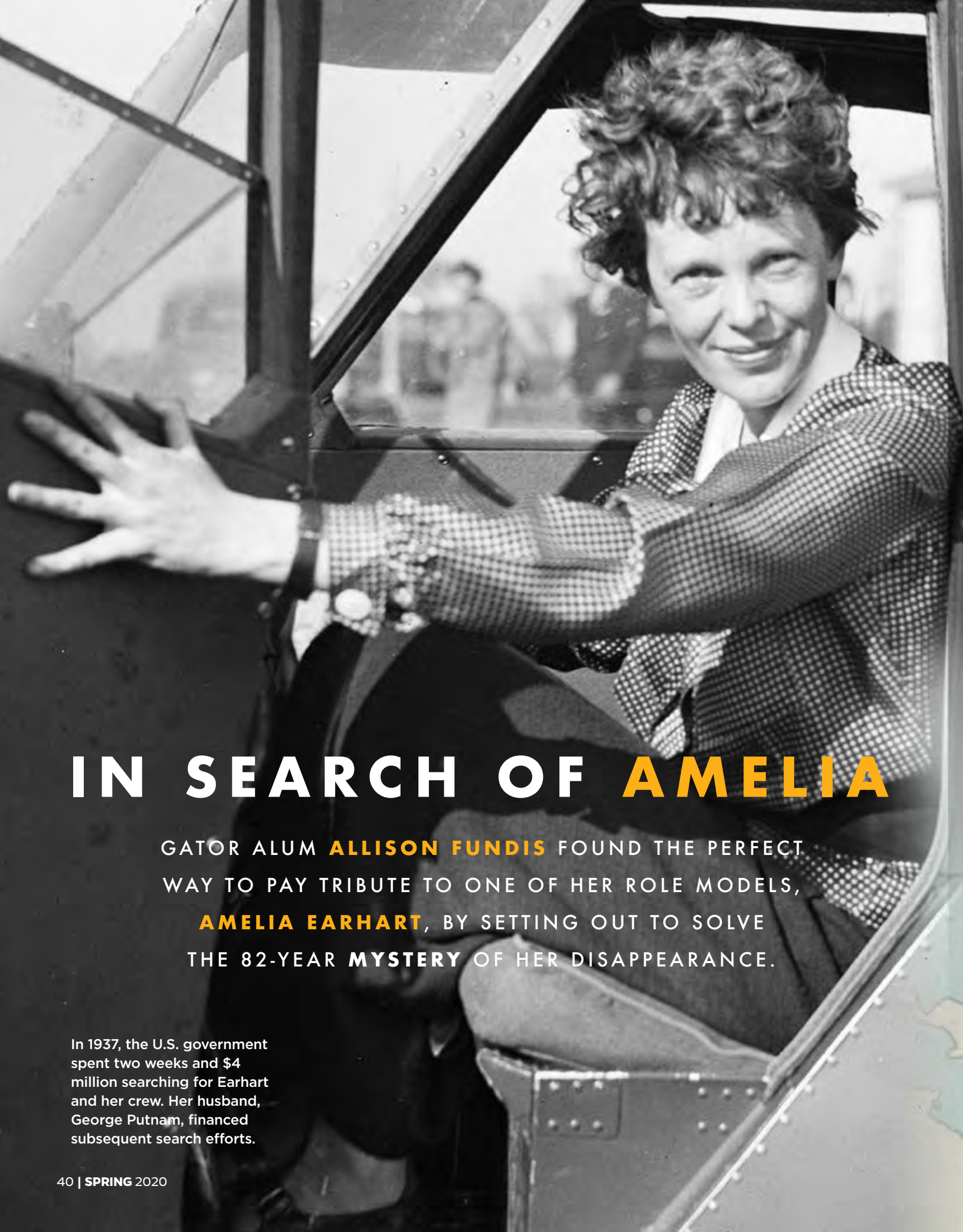
The person responsible for these acts of kindness is Lisa Wright, a surgical services/operating room nurse at Physicians Regional. But to NCEF patients, she is better known as the Tooth Fairy.

Originally funded with money from her own pocket, Wright's comforting gifts are making it easier for UF dental residents to perform their delicate operations. She has been working her magic since May 2016, two months after she began working at the hospital.

"I saw these frightened children, and we weren't doing anything for them," said Wright, a 30-year veteran of surgical nursing in Michigan. "I just thought, 'Well how can we make their experience more relaxing and more fun?'"

Today, a grant finances Wright's ongoing costs (about \$600 annually). For her overall compassion and professionalism, she was recently honored with an international DAISY Award, given to exceptional nurses who go "above and beyond."

"I want the children not to be afraid of the hospital," said Wright. "I want them to think afterward, 'That was a pretty good place. It wasn't a place you'd want to go to all the time, but it's OK when you need help to feel better.'"



IN SEARCH OF AMELIA

GATOR ALUM **ALLISON FUNDIS** FOUND THE PERFECT WAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ONE OF HER ROLE MODELS, **AMELIA EARHART**, BY SETTING OUT TO SOLVE THE 82-YEAR MYSTERY OF HER DISAPPEARANCE.

In 1937, the U.S. government spent two weeks and \$4 million searching for Earhart and her crew. Her husband, George Putnam, financed subsequent search efforts.

BY TOM CUNNEFF (BSJ '82)

ONE OF THE MOST ENDURING MYSTERIES OF OUR TIME IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART.

The circumstances surrounding the death of the aviation pioneer, who vanished in the South Pacific while trying to become the first woman to fly around the world in 1937, have fascinated people for generations.

But unlike most people, Allison Fundis (MS '10), a marine geologist and chief operating officer of the scientific and educational nonprofit Ocean Exploration Trust (OET), was in a position to solve that mystery.

The mission to do so would take her and a crew of 50 to a tiny speck of an island in the vast South Pacific, 2,000 miles from Hawaii. As part of a National Geographic-sponsored expedition, they would meticulously map the island's coastline and its submerged 16,000-foot cliffs with multibeam sonar for any sign of Earhart's Lockheed Electra airplane. A documentary on the multimillion-dollar journey, "Expedition Amelia," aired on the National Geographic channel in October.

Helping her lead the team was deep-sea explorer Robert Ballard, OET's president and the man best known for locating the wreckage of the Titanic off the coast of Newfoundland in 1985. A preponderance of evidence led Ballard, Fundis and the crew to the island of Nikumaroro. Earhart experts believe she landed her plane on the tiny atoll's flat reef at low tide and lived out her days on the 4-mile-long island before the ocean swallowed the aircraft.



Gator Allison Fundis co-led the Earhart expedition and its 50-member crew.

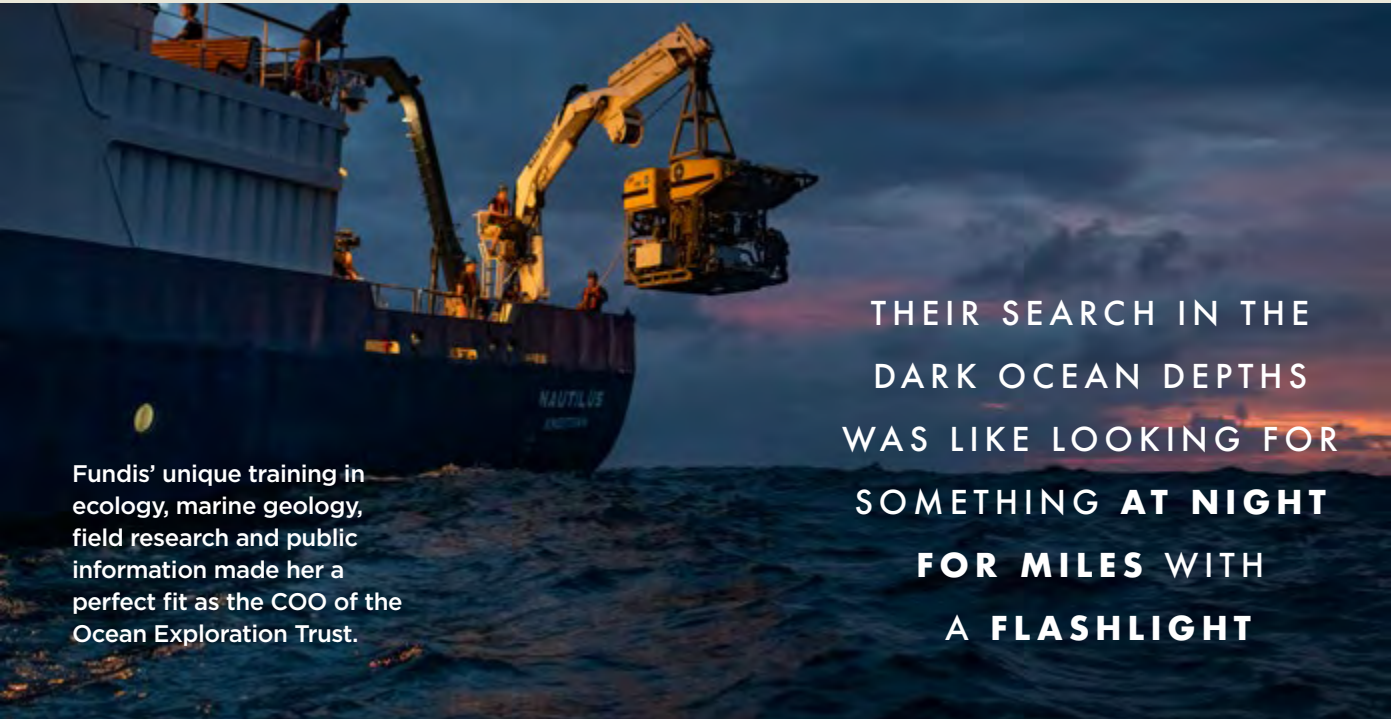


LAST FLIGHT

On July 2, 1937, Amelia Earhart flew toward Howland Island, one of the last few stops on her attempt to circumnavigate the globe. She and her co-pilot and plane were never found.



From the Nautilus control room, staff operated submerged drones, seeking evidence of Earhart's plane.



Fundis' unique training in ecology, marine geology, field research and public information made her a perfect fit as the COO of the Ocean Exploration Trust.

THEIR SEARCH IN THE
DARK OCEAN DEPTHS
WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING AT NIGHT
FOR MILES WITH
A FLASHLIGHT

While a team of archaeologists from National Geographic looked for skeletal evidence of Earhart on land, Ballard and Fundis circled the island five times aboard the 211-foot-long Nautilus, a state-of-the-art exploration and research vessel. In shallower waters, they employed ROVs (remotely operated vehicles), aerial drones and even scuba teams, looking for any sign of Earhart's airplane, particularly its giant Pratt & Whitney engines.

“TO IMAGINE ... STRANDED THERE
AND PERISH AS A CASTAWAY, I
WAS PRETTY TAKEN ABACK AT MY
EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO IT.”
— ALLISON FUNDIS

“If the plane had fallen down slope like we predicted, the engines would have been left,” said Fundis, who spent a year planning the three-week search, which took place over the summer. Not that it would be easy by any stretch: Their search in the dark ocean depths was like looking for something at night for miles with a flashlight.

The time preparing for the expedition — coming up with a game plan, obtaining permits, coordinating with the different teams, being ready to recover an engine — made Fundis feel, she said, “very connected to both the expedition and story. She was such a barrier breaker and lived way ahead of her time. She accomplished so much in the air that she's so well known for, but she also did a lot in her life outside of that. Especially as a female, she continues to be an inspiration for so many people.

“And then you get there on-site and you can't help but place yourself in Amelia's shoes.”

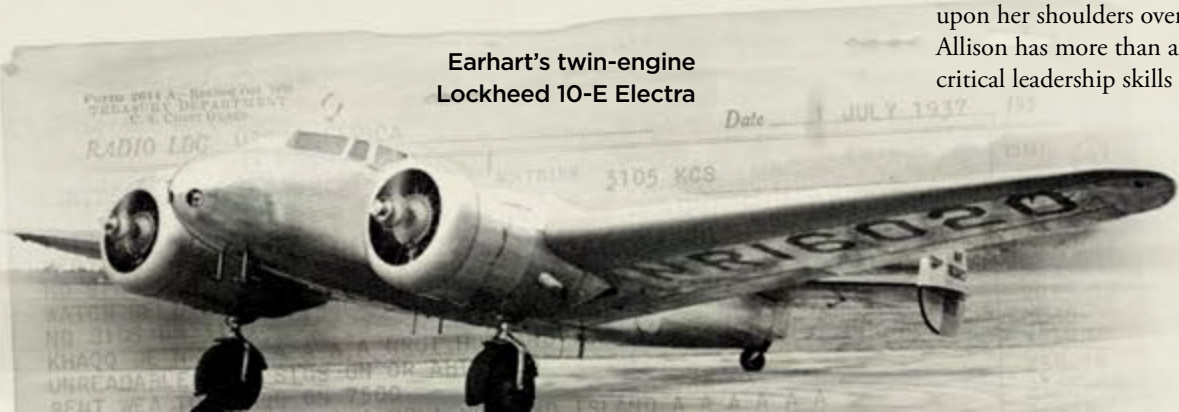
As Fundis walked around the island, she thought about Earhart, who was 39 at the time and married to publisher George Putnam. “To imagine what it would be like to be stranded there and perish as a castaway, I was pretty taken aback at my emotional response to it,” says Fundis.

As a bit of a barrier breaker herself, Fundis can clearly relate to Earhart's story. “She reminds me a lot of Amelia,” says Ballard. “She sees no boundaries to where she can go and takes others with her on that journey.”

TAKE US BACK

Growing up in Nashville as the daughter of Country Music Hall of Fame record producer Garth Fundis, who worked with Trisha Yearwood, Alabama and other top acts, Allison Fundis was more likely to become a country star than a “rock” star, but being tone deaf put an end to that notion. Music's loss was science's gain after she earned a bachelor's degree in human ecology and marine science from the College of the Atlantic in Maine in 2003.

Two years of teaching high school biology and chemistry convinced her she wanted a career with a little more adventure. A chance meeting with a marine geologist from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Daniel Fornari, led to her first research cruise to the East Pacific Rise volcanic chain, which was erupting. An epiphany also arose.



Earhart's twin-engine
Lockheed 10-E Electra

“It was really the catalyst for me going back to school at UF,” says Fundis, who worked as a camera technician aboard the trip. “I just totally fell in love with it. Seeing geologists and biologists and engineers and chemists in the field come together to create this really unique environment, I loved the interdisciplinary nature of it.”

With her then-boyfriend (now husband), **Stein Servick ('07)**, headed to UF to pursue a doctorate in botany, Fundis reached out to Mike Perfit in the Department of Geological Sciences at Fornari's recommendation to see about becoming a lab assistant. It just so happened that Perfit needed someone to go out to the East Pacific Rise aboard Woods Hole's ship to assist with its deep-towed camera system. Fundis later went on four more missions to the area while she began pursuing her master's in marine geology.

“She was smart, mature and really didn't need any guidance,” says Perfit, who served as her mentor. “She was just one of those ideal graduate students. She was also really good at getting along with people, which allowed us to be able to send her out on these other cruises that we might not have been involved with.”

After Fundis graduated in 2010, her people skills helped her land a job as the education and public engagement liaison with the University of Washington's Ocean Observatories Initiative. That's the same position Ballard hired her to perform in 2013. Five years later, she was OET's chief operating officer.

“I came to realize just how many areas of responsibility Allison could cover as I piled more and more work upon her shoulders over the last six years,” says Ballard. “But Allison has more than a broad range of skill sets, she also has the critical leadership skills needed to lead a team onshore and at sea and bring them home safely.”

Fundis, who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Servick is the brewmaster at Napa Smith Brewery, spends about two and a half months at sea each year. With more than 50

FUNDIS' ADVICE FOR
BUDDING WOMEN SCIENTISTS

As you progress through your education and career, seek out mentors along the way who are going to champion you, challenge you, and help you find new experiences and passions. The right mentors will open doors to new opportunities and experiences that you might not even be considering as a career path today.

expeditions under her belt, she says some of her more memorable OET missions include looking for shipwrecks in the Black Sea and War World II wrecks in the Pacific.

“I love what we are doing because we have such varied interests,” she says. “We're doing biology, geology and archaeology. I'm fortunate to have been able to travel all over the world joining and leading expeditions. Each one provides a unique experience.”

That was especially true of the search for Earhart's plane, and even though she and Ballard didn't find direct evidence, their desire to solve the mystery has only deepened. They plan on picking up the search when the Nautilus is back in the South Pacific in 2021. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration just awarded OET and four partners \$94 million to essentially become the nation's ocean exploration center. OET's focus will be to map and characterize the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone: 200 miles of territorial islands and waters, which include Howland Island, Earhart's original destination before she went missing.

“We're going to be very attentive to those mapping efforts, for sure,” says Fundis. “The disappointment of not finding [evidence of Earhart there] has really fueled us to keep looking.”

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

UF ONCE AGAIN CELEBRATES DIE-HARD GATORS THROUGH THE ACADEMY OF GOLDEN GATORS

By David Finnerty | Photo by Eric Zamora

WHAT DO A YOUNG ACCOUNTANT, AN INSURANCE GURU, AN ATTORNEY AND A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER HAVE IN COMMON? All are among the latest inductees into one of UF's most prestigious societies: the Academy of Golden Gators. The academy honors Gators whose support and leadership are driving UF's rise to the top of the nation's best universities.

THE SCHOLAR Phuong Nguyen (BSBA '14)

Young Philanthropists Award

The odds of Phuong Nguyen graduating college weren't on her side. English wasn't spoken in the Nguyen home and her parents worked minimum wage jobs. But oddsmakers rarely encounter families like hers. Nguyen's father, a Vietnam War POW survivor, had taught her that obstacles are opportunities. A Machen Florida Opportunity Scholar, Nguyen went on to earn a business degree, with the intent to pay it forward to support other first-generation students — which she's done with annual gifts.

ASPIRATION: "I want to emulate things I admire. The [Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars] program has shaped my life for the better and has inspired me to help those in similar situations."

THE ALTRUISTS Hyatt (BSBA '59) and Cici Brown

Lifetime Philanthropy Award

Fifty years ago, Hyatt Brown's father insisted his two sons earn their college diplomas at UF because it made smart business sense. But for the Browns, it was a good decision for far more than that. The semi-retired Daytona Beach couple's bond with the university is also tied to their lifelong Gator friends, their own three sons' UF degrees, memories of football games and fraternity shenanigans. It's the reason the Browns invest so generously in UF's professors, students and programs.

GIVING BACK: "When it comes to education there's no better place to give back to than UF. That's our future."

THE ACTIVE ADVOCATES Chris (BSBA '88, MBA '88, JD '91) and Kristine Boyett (BA '88)

Volunteers of the Year

Chris and Kristine Boyett of Miami are among UF's most passionate Gators. Among their many UF activities, they recently completed two terms as co-chairs of UF's Parent and Family Leadership Council. They've also invested in the Levin College of Law and Office of Student Affairs, funding Machen Florida Opportunity scholarships and the Career Connections Center. Chris Boyett is a law partner with Holland & Knight in Miami.

OUR FUTURE: "We have a passion for helping students. You want the best for them, and that includes helping them put their best foot forward when they apply for jobs."

THE GAME-CHANGER Mori Hosseini

Transformational Award

When it was announced this fall that UF had climbed to No. 7 on U.S. News & World Report's list of best public schools, Mori Hosseini was front and center. It made sense. Hosseini, chairman of UF's Board of Trustees, is a driving force behind UF's ascension. He's helped lead a bold initiative to hire 500 new faculty, a campaign to raise \$3 billion in private investments and a six-year graduation rate that's up to 90 percent.

UF'S RISE: "It clearly demonstrates that UF is on an unstoppable trajectory ... The rankings are also an indicator of ... the quality of the education our students are receiving and the steadily increasing value of a UF degree."

PHUONG NGUYEN

HYATT AND CICI BROWN

KRISTINE AND CHRIS BOYETT

MORI HOSSEINI



GATOR NATION

OH, THE PLACES SHE'S GONE

In the seven years since **McKenzie Barney** (BSTel '12) left Gainesville — where she scored 32 goals in 91 UF soccer games and graduated with academic honors — this Gator said she's discovered who she really is: a “wayfarer on a non-linear, cross-cultural journey.” So far, she has traveled through Thailand, Indonesia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Australia, Sri Lanka, Europe, Morocco, India, Nepal, Iceland, South Africa, Costa Rica and Chile. Her inspirational journey and life lessons are chronicled through her Instagram account [@McKenzieBarney](#).

“Experiencing eastern culture on foot, where possessions are small and possibilities are large,” she posts. “It’s the best way to measure health, by holistic happiness, not by economic gain. It’s being with who you’re with right where you are, not where you think you should be. It’s going far, which usually means going slow and fully appreciating each new environment. It’s being grateful to experience more of this world together.”

Photo courtesy of McKenzie Barney

GREAT GATORS WITH GREAT NEWS



BRAD MCCLANNY/THE GAINESVILLE SUN

VETERAN MARKS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1942 not long after Pearl Harbor was bombed, **William “Bill” Ebersole** (BAJ '49, MA '57) was a freshman at UF. As many young men did back then, he and two classmates decided they should volunteer for military service, even though Ebersole was convinced an eye injury would preclude him from joining. To all of their surprise, his two friends were denied, and Ebersole was accepted into the Army Air Forces.

Ebersole eventually flew P-51 fighter planes, providing long-range protective escorts to bombers in the Pacific. He completed 10 of the longest fighter pilot missions on record at that time (each were seven to eight hours long). Ebersole's last flight was the day before the atom bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, Japan. At that time, he was the youngest pilot in his squadron. He won five air medals, including a Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Ebersole finished his UF journalism degree while working night shifts in the Gainesville Sun newspaper's production department. He eventually became the newspaper's publisher from 1971 to 1985 before leaving to start a commercial real estate company.

In March, the National World War II Museum in New Orleans planned to honor the veteran by taking him and his wife, Anna, on a 10-day tour to revisit all the places he was stationed from Hawaii to Iwo Jima. The trip is part of the museum's 75th anniversary of the end of the war. The Gainesville retiree says he's deeply honored by the gift, which will give him more to talk about at his next birthday celebration in September, when he'll turn 96.

“I’ve always been a question-asker in my head. Research is just a way to satisfy that curious nature.”

— **ALAN SAMs** (BSA '82, MS '84, PHD '87), WHO COMPLETED HIS FIRST YEAR AS OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DEAN. HE PREVIOUSLY HELD THE SAME ROLE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.



HAVE YOU BEEN SERVED?

Michele Stumpe (BFA '90) of the Taylor English law firm in Atlanta is an attorney specializing in alcohol licensing and permitting. The Daily Report named her a 2019 Georgia Trailblazer for her work in the restaurant industry, as well as for her creation of the nonprofit, the Giving Kitchen. This program provides emergency funding and educational resources to local food service workers. Since 2013, the kitchen has provided crisis grants and community resource referrals for more than 4,000 people.



CAREER BUILDER

Natalie Smith (MA '03) of Houston, TX, is a senior manager of workforce development at KBR, an engineering and construction corporation that specializes in defense and space projects. Her work focuses on the company's craft and supervisory personnel in U.S. construction and maintenance projects. Smith says she takes pride in advocating for veterans and middle-school girls through vocational education, construction camps and local outreach programs.



MR. PRESIDENT

Damian Fernandez (MA '80) is the fifth president of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. The Cuban immigrant who grew up in Puerto Rico has more than 30 years of higher education experience, most recently serving as the chancellor at Pennsylvania State University Abington.



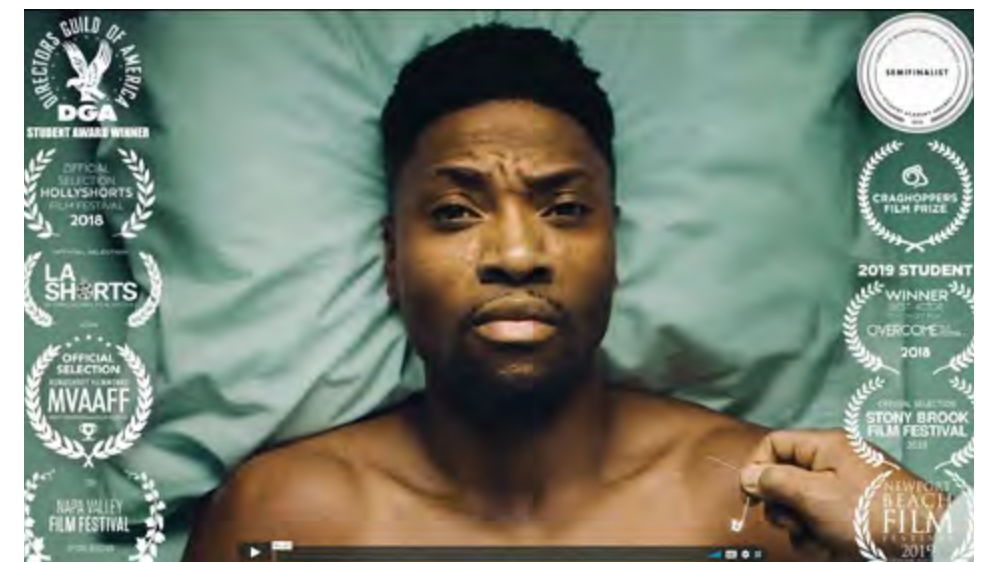
TOP BIZ

Blake Dowling (BSR '97) is CEO of Aegis Business Technologies in Tallahassee, which Florida Trend magazine

named one of the state's 2019 “Best Companies to Work For.” The magazine staff scored companies based on workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems, demographics and employee satisfaction.

PERSONAL PRODUCTION

Andrew Reid (BSADV '12) produced a short film called “ASIA A,” about a young man who mysteriously becomes paralyzed and must cope with his new-found disabilities. Available on Amazon Prime Video, the story is partly based on Reid's own experiences as a UF student, when he became paralyzed. The film won in the 2018 Directors Guild of America's Student Awards and was a semifinalist for the 45th Student Academy Awards. Reid is working to turn the story into a full-length film. See trailer at <http://uff.to/vmqb07>.





“My goal is for aging loved ones to remain independent and comfortable in their own home to live their best lives as possible.”

— **EMMA DICKISON** (BA '86) OF CINCINNATI, OH, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HOME HELPERS HOME CARE, WHO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE HOME CARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Katrina Rolle (JD '91) of Tallahassee appeared on the cover of Tallahassee Woman magazine this winter. She is president and CEO of the Community Foundation of North Florida, as well as president of the UF Alumni Association's Board of Directors.



FRIENDS IN THE CROWD

When **Alan** (Med '75, EDS, '75, PhD '77) and **Lorna Schlossman** (MEd '75) of Ormond Beach, far left, coincidentally met about 30 other Gators while on board the Norwegian Getaway Ship headed for Northern Europe, their FSU alum entertainment director arranged an informal social. Between all the Schlossman family members alone, which include their three children, **Scott** (BSAC '03, MACC '03), **Kyle** (BSAC '06) and **Ilicia Shugarman** (BS '02, BSA '02, MD '09, HS '15), they are proud to have earned 11 UF degrees.

A LEADER AMONG ENTERTAINERS

Emmy Award-winner **Tony Hernandez** (BSTel '97) of New York City, received the Creative Leadership Award on behalf of Jax Media at the Variety New Leaders event in New York City. In 2011, Hernandez co-founded Jax Media, which has produced shows and specials including “Broad City,” TBS’ “Full Frontal with Samantha Bee” and John Mulaney’s “Kid Gorgeous.” Hernandez’s Emmy came from his 2015 work on “Inside Amy Schumer,” which won the Outstanding Variety Sketch Series category. Jax Media has offices in New York City, Los Angeles and London, and was acquired in 2018 by Imagine Entertainment.



FELLOW GATORS

Two Gators are among the winners of a yearlong public policy fellowship with The Fund for American Studies. They are **Mike Torounian** (BA '17) and **Daniela Lozano** (BA '17, BA '17). Torounian of Arlington, VA, works at a lobbying firm focused on assisting technology companies with the federal procurement process. Lozano of Washington, DC, is the development director at In Defense of Christians, overseeing and managing the organization’s fundraising efforts.



WHAT'S GOOD.

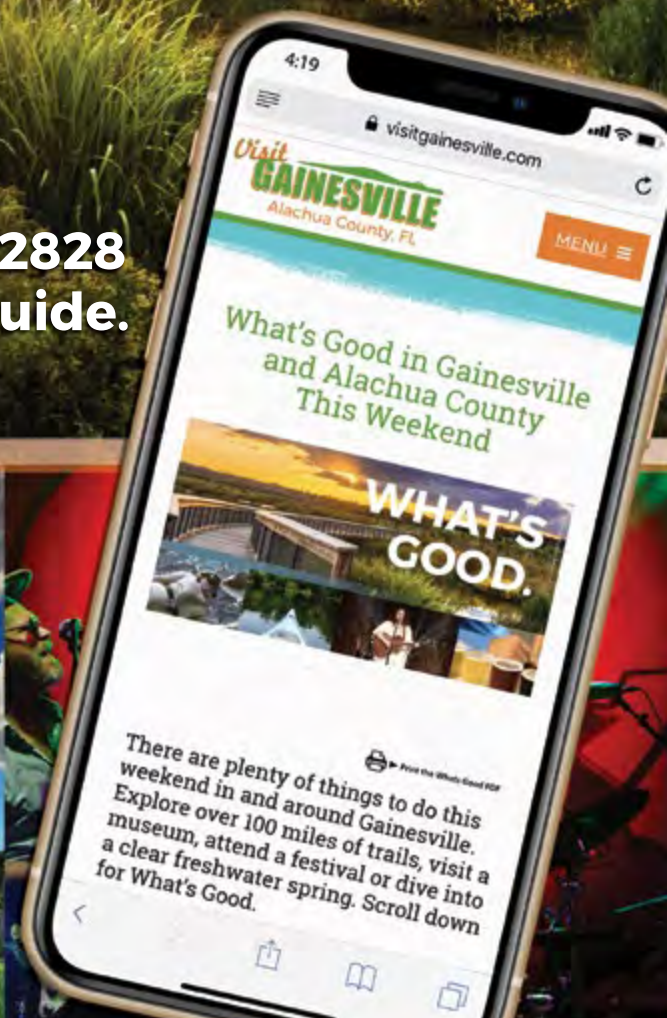
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Text **WhatsGood** to 22828 for the weekly events guide.

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK PHOTO BY WESLEY HETRICK

TOM PETTY BIRTHDAY BASH PHOTO BY JOHN DAVISSON

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JEFF CASUCCI (DBA '22)
CEO, Titan Containers

MORE INFORMATION

→ warrington.ufl.edu/DBA
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Legacy of Helpfulness

GATOR FATHER, DAUGHTER SHARE IN A UF TRADITION

There are some things all Gators understand — shared experiences that transcend decades and social circles: having lunch on the Plaza of the Americas, waiting in line for an O-Dome game or strolling through UF's art and natural history museums. Being introduced to UF through the Preview program is one of them, too.

But for **Bob Lloyd** (BA '87, JD '90) and his daughter, **Delaney Lloyd** (1AG), of Port Orange, Preview has given them a deeper connection: They both served as student staff. Bob served his one-year stint in 1985. Back then, this job wasn't considered as elite as it is today. In fact, Bob recruited his cousins and other friends to sign up as student staff in order to fill out the group.

Delaney was accepted into the 2020 team this spring. But she was one of 46 staff selected from more than 200 applicants through a three-round interview process. Her duties are almost identical to her dad's: welcome new UF students by serving as mentors, guides and coaches during a two-day orientation program; conducting tours for new students; sharing

thousands of facts about UF's history, academic and sports prowess; and answering hundreds of questions during each tour about what it's like to be a Gator. But in Delaney's case, she and her fellow staff will welcome about 7,000 students.

Bob was the first in his family to graduate from college and the first to attend law school. Today, he's the executive vice president and general counsel at Brown & Brown Insurance in Daytona Beach. Despite the years, he says he's never really given up his role as a Preview staffer.

"I started selling UF and the Gator experience from my first days ... on staff," he said. "I have been selling it ever since. I now make my most precious and valuable contribution to UF and its future: [my daughter, Delaney]. Put her to work! I am humbled, honored, proud and, admittedly, a bit teary-eyed by the whole experience."

Learn more about Preview and the guide application process by visiting <http://uff.to/gapbcv>.

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35

Consecutive years **Mark Gendzier** (BS '83, DVM '87) and **Virginia Quelch** (MS '85, DVM '87) have supported the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. The couple met at UF while they were studying to become veterinarians and now own and operate a small animal hospital practice in St. Augustine.



Jaclyn Wenaas (BSADV '09) of Golden, CO, married Christopher Azqueta at Lake Catamount in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Wenaas owns a tanning salon, Bronzed Denver, and Azqueta is a tax consultant.



DYNAMIC DUO

Twins **JaNeika James** (BSTel '03) and **JaSheika James** (BSTel '03) received a 2019 Sentinel Award for their writing of an episode of the hit TV show "Empire." Called "Depth of Grief," the episode delved into the issue of HIV/AIDS. Since the episode aired, the sisters have been serving as supervising producers for the show. They live in North Hollywood, CA.



Lance Karp (BS '96, DMD '00) of Sarasota took his family, his Gator banner and his Florida Gator alumni magazine to Antarctica in January.



Dale Moody (BSBA '63, MA '64, PhD '75) of Mount Dora and his daughter, **Diane Rivers** (BAEd '97, MEd '99) of Saint Cloud, showed their Gator pride at the Great Wall of China.



Hallie (BHSSH '00) and **Evan Rosenblatt** (BSBC '00) of Boca Raton took time to chomp with their sons, Eric and Zack, at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.



Marc O'Connor (BSISE '90) of Atlanta, whose company was named to the Gator100 in 2017 and 2018, took his daughter Megan dogsledding on the Norris Glacier in Juneau, Alaska.

UF CHEERS **100 GATOR** HONOREES



On Feb. 28, the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, celebrated the 100 fastest-growing, Gator-owned or -led businesses in the world. At the event, these leaders gathered to network, share their talents and wisdom, and serve as an inspiration to fellow UF alumni.

The No. 1 fastest-growing company among the 2020 honorees is FanChest, a sports fan gift box company that **Jeff Lin** (BSAC '02, MACC '02) of Manhattan, NY, started with his business partner. Lin is a former Wall Street salesperson who left a lucrative career in 2012 to pursue a more fulfilling life. He aims for his company to help people “create moments and memories through sports” by delivering all types of fun and unique items that enhance fan experiences.

While FanChest boxes typically come loaded with sports-related swag, we asked Lin to curate this box at right to reflect his own interests and personality.

Applications for the 2021 Gator100 will open later this summer. Visit Gator100.ufl.edu for details. For questions about the Gator100 program, please contact Missy Poole at mpoole@uff.ufl.edu.



With High Honors

Congratulations to the Gator100's 2020 S. Clark Butler Pinnacle Award winner, **Scott Pressly** (BSCHE '90). The co-founder of private equity firm 10 Point Capital has developed his own franchise accelerator model to help entrepreneurs expand their brands. His clients include Schlotzsky's, Fastsigns, Cinnabon and Tropical Smoothie Café. The Pinnacle Award recognizes an established business leader who has demonstrated sustained excellence and leadership in his/her industry.

TEAM WORK

WELLS FARGO For more than 30 years, Wells Fargo has sponsored events at UF. The UF Alumni Association is grateful to Wells Fargo for its dedication and support as this year's Gator100 presenting sponsor.

“We’re proud of our strong presence in the Swamp, where many of our team members and customers are students, alumni, Gator parents and fans,” said Wells Fargo’s Northeast Florida Region Bank President Damien Haitzuka. “Our goal is to make a positive difference through our support and engagement with the university and community.”

An Insider’s Look at Gator100 Honoree Jeff Lin

FOOD is a huge part of my life: as a way to celebrate with friends and family, cooking as a way to relax, and during travel as a way to connect with other people and cultures.

FAMILY means everything to me. I work hard to be present, especially with my kids. They are such an amazing blessing, and I want to give them my undivided attention without all the crazy distractions of our digital age.

READING is a gift, take full advantage.

EXERCISE improves my attitude and focus in everything I do. I try to be active in some way every day.



I **MEDITATE** every day, usually following my workouts. I just clear my head and practice a combo of spirituality and mindfulness.

UF laid the foundation for so many aspects of my life — my friends, finding my identity, my academic preparation, the connections I made after graduation — the list continues to expand.

MUSIC opens my mind and brings me happiness, whether at a concert, at workouts or at home, where I play it 24/7. I think music influences us in ways we don’t fully appreciate yet. Plus it’s fun to see my 2-year-old dance.

To me, a **GLOBE** represents: new opportunities; how we are all connected; how exploration is the key to understanding other people and cultures; and how we only have one planet, so we must respect it.

UF **GATOR100** *for 2020*

- 1 FanChest | New York, NY
- 2 Global Lounge Network | Miami, FL
- 3 Nationwide Pharmaceutical | San Antonio, TX
- 4 Fanjoy | Culver City, CA
- 5 Survios | Los Angeles, CA
- 6 Bear Mattress | Hoboken, NJ
- 7 ShalePro Energy Services | Houston, PA
- 8 Feathr | Gainesville, FL
- 9 Adesis, Inc. | New Castle, DE
- 10 eco Construction, Inc. | Little Rock, AR
- 11 Macallan Real Estate, LLC | Marietta, GA
- 12 Ovation Construction Company | Ovideo, FL
- 13 EASE Applications | Orlando, FL
- 14 Carroll Bradford, Inc. | Orlando, FL
- 15 ECIR Medical Communications | Jacksonville, FL
- 16 Pitisci & Associates, LLC | Tampa, FL
- 17 Perform^(cb) | Sarasota, FL
- 18 Walker Architects, Inc. | Gainesville, FL
- 19 Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice | Lutz, FL
- 20 Passport | Charlotte, NC
- 21 Global Trust | West Palm Beach, FL

- 22 Verdex Construction | West Palm Beach, FL
- 23 Gast Construction Group | West Palm Beach, FL
- 24 Zup | Williamsburg, VA
- 25 Greek House | Los Angeles, CA
- 26 Park & Eleazer Construction | Clearwater, FL
- 27 MARKETOPIA | Pinellas Park, FL
- 28 Raconteur Media Company | Austin, TX
- 29 Teeming Vacation Rentals | Winter Park, FL
- 30 Group PMX, LLC | New York, NY
- 31 DOME HEADWEAR CO. | Jacksonville Beach, FL
- 32 United Energy Services | Gainesville, FL
- 33 Action Equipment | Miami, FL
- 34 Tellus | Deerfield Beach, FL
- 35 Engineered Design Services LLC | West Palm Beach, FL
- 36 Scorpio | Gainesville, FL

- 37 Burgess Civil | Tampa, FL
- 38 ZEGAZ Instruments | Ijamsville, MD
- 39 DeAngelis Diamond | Naples, FL
- 40 Zinnia Wealth Management | Ocala, FL
- 41 Embark Safety LLC | Orlando, FL
- 42 Straughn Trout Architects | Lakeland, FL
- 43 Protean Design Group, Inc. | Orlando, FL
- 44 High Mark Construction, LLC | Altamonte Springs, FL
- 45 Postal Solutions | Orlando, FL
- 46 The Orlando Law Group | Orlando, FL
- 47 Emerald C's Development, Inc. | Jacksonville, FL
- 48 The HCI Group | Jacksonville, FL
- 49 Philotek | Atlanta, GA
- 50 Construction Specialties & Design LLC | Deland, FL
- 51 OpenJAUS | Longwood, FL
- 52 JAX Refrigeration, Inc. | Jacksonville Beach, FL
- 53 Avant Healthcare Professionals | Casselberry, FL

- 54 RB Marks Construction, Inc. | Winter Springs, FL
- 55 Ascent Capital Management | Chicago, IL
- 56 kasper architects + associates | Jacksonville, FL
- 57 Amicon Management | Miami, FL
- 58 PHOS Creative | Gainesville, FL
- 59 AIT Engineering | Orlando, FL
- 60 KFS | Orlando, FL
- 61 JK2 Construction | Apopka, FL
- 62 Marker Construction Group | Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 63 Evolve Advisor Group | Orlando, FL
- 64 East Coast Institute for Research | Jacksonville, FL
- 65 Securifera | Charleston, SC
- 66 LeadingAgile | Duluth, GA
- 67 Regency Square Dental | Davie, FL
- 68 Abode Luxury Rentals | Park City, UT
- 69 SkyFrog Landscape, LLC | Gainesville, FL
- 70 RedTeam Software | Orlando, FL

- 71 Honest Autos | Fruitland Park, FL
- 72 Ajax Building Company | Oldsmar, FL
- 73 J2 Solutions Inc. | Venice, FL
- 74 Southeast Forensic Consultants, LLC | Tallahassee, FL
- 75 AspirEDU | Anna Maria, FL
- 76 Florida Contract Automated Shading | Newberry, FL
- 77 The College Map | Orlando, FL
- 78 Mainstay Salire LLC | Castle Rock, CO
- 79 Search Discovery | Atlanta, GA
- 80 Bermello Ajamil & Partners, Inc. | Miami, FL
- 81 Sarah Cain Design LLC | Gainesville, FL
- 82 Southeast Veterinary Neurology | Miami, FL
- 83 Ctrip | Shanghai, China
- 84 Ironside Insurance Group, LLC | Boston, MA
- 85 Marquis Latimer + Halback, Inc. | St. Augustine, FL

- 86 Force Marketing | Atlanta, GA
- 87 A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. | Bartow, FL
- 88 Vesta Property Services | Jacksonville, FL
- 89 Acumen Wealth Advisors | Chattanooga, TN
- 90 Custom Maids, Inc. | St. Petersburg, FL
- 91 Infinite Energy | Gainesville, FL
- 92 Ai Collaborative, Inc. | Tampa, FL
- 93 SSP Innovations | Centennial, CO
- 94 Jackson Orthodontics | Charlotte, NC
- 95 Top Notch RV Storage, Inc. | Clermont, FL
- 96 Campbell Spellicy Engineering | Gainesville, FL
- 97 Landsberg Bennett Private Wealth Management | Punta Gorda, FL
- 98 Kennetic Productions, Inc. | Jacksonville, FL
- 99 Worth Advertising Group | Gainesville, FL
- 100 The Icebox-Cool Stuff, LLC | Atlanta, GA

Patrick Murray
eco Construction

Joe Lawrence
Nationwide Pharmaceutical

Jeff Lin
FanChest

Scott Paladini
Bear Mattress

Chris Vaccarino
Fanjoy

Bill Johnson
ShalePro Energy

Top 10 honorees
who gathered
after the event.

GO GATORS

UF

GO GREATER

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to educate,
to eradicate,
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to push boundaries,
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to repair,
to aid,
to soothe,
to comfort,
to lighten someone else's load.

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GO GREATER.
It's what Gators do. Always.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? VISIT WWW.UFF.UFL.EDU

HELPING TO HEAL THROUGH ART

Lori Arbel (BAAED '02, BFA '02) of Parkland is a mixed-media artist and photographer who teaches art as a tool to promote healing, self-discovery and storytelling. She is also a creative coach. Aside from her classes in New York City, Broward County and in community spaces, Arbel held a solo exhibition at the Pompano Cultural Center this winter.

"I've embraced emotional introspection for content," Arbel said. "Paint, pen, and ink lines, handmade paper, and geometric shapes allow me to express energetic and meditative content. The imperfections of the handmade paper and pop of gold illustrate metaphor, transforming sometimes negative energy into something beautiful."

See examples of her artwork at loriabel.com.



ONE AND "ONLY"

Takashi Doscher (BA '08) directed the sci-fi movie "Only," which had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival and was acquired by Vertical Entertainment. The film stars Freida Pinto and Leslie Odom Jr. and is expected to be released this spring. "The Walking Dead's" Chandler Riggs, Jayson Warner Smith and Joshua Mikel also star. Doscher wrote the script, as well. It questions the lengths people will go to protect those they love.

GATOR CHRONICLES LIFE OF SURVIVOR

Travis Atria's (MAMC '07) new book, "Better Days Will Come Again," explores the life of Arthur

Briggs, who became known as the "Louis Armstrong of Paris" following the Harlem Renaissance. Through Briggs, Atria tells the story of the first half of the 20th century and the evolution of jazz.

He follows Briggs from the Great War to the Nazi prison camp where he survived by performing in a makeshift inmate orchestra to his eventual role as one of the world's legendary jazz performers. Atria lives in Gainesville.





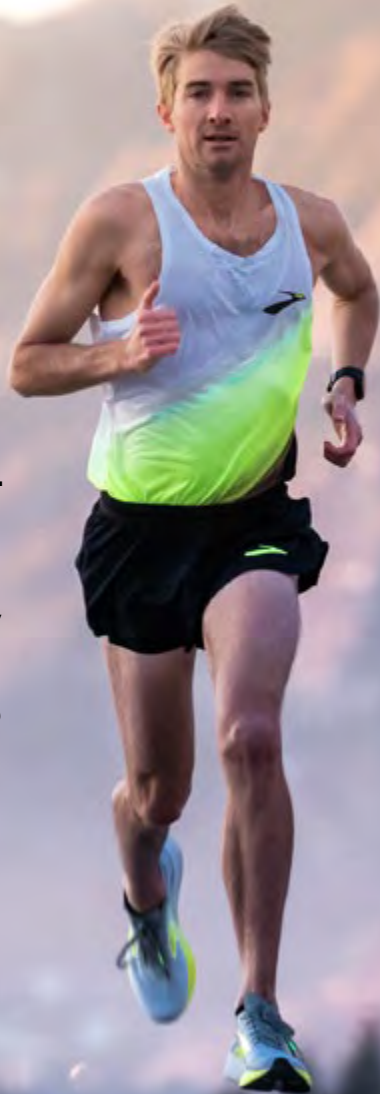
THIS IS JEOPARDY

Two Gators competed on the TV game show “Jeopardy!” this winter: **Kristin Carter** (BSJ ’93) on Jan. 6 — season 36, episode 86 – and **Jamison Webb** (BSJ ’07) on Dec. 27 — season 36, episode 80. Webb is an actor and writer in Los Angeles who has appeared in a wide array of commercials and TV shows, including a Netflix comedy series to be released later this year. Carter is an attorney in Fort Lauderdale who is a presidential appointee on the UF Alumni Association’s board of directors. Their “Jeopardy!” episodes can be viewed on Hulu and CBS All Access.



ON THE OLYMPIC TRAIL

Kurt Roeser (BSAPK ’09, DPT ’12) of Boulder, CO, competed in his first U.S. Olympic marathon trials in February. The Naples native is a physical therapist who ran for UF’s track and cross country teams during his undergrad days. Roeser says he loves the act of getting outside for a run or hard workout every morning. In his job he gets “to help people get back to doing what they enjoy, often running, through a combination of education, strengthening, motor learning, mobility exercise and manual therapy.”



...WE ALL STICK TOGETHER

These Gators above stopped to give a chomp at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater in New York City, where they were celebrating the graduation of **Barry Naylor** (BSTel ’07), front row, center, from an improv course. As part of the event, Naylor, of Coatesville, PA, and his classmates put on a show for family and friends. The following week, Naylor performed at the Gotham Gator Club’s® comedy night March 6 at the Tailor Public House in Manhattan. Proceeds from the event supported the club’s scholarship fund for local high school seniors who plan to attend UF.

UNVEILING LA CASITA

UF Association of Hispanic Alumni members gathered for a reunion Nov. 8-10 and toured UF’s new La Casita facility, which serves as a home away from home for Latinx students. The Gators, who have waited years for the new facility to be built, shared stories from their college days and about the old La Casita building. For details about the reunion and the group, visit www.ufalumni.ufl.edu.



Nona Jones (BSTel ’04, MBA ’08) of Gainesville published her memoir, “Success from the Inside Out,” in January. It chronicles her path to becoming a 23-year-old executive who later served public,

private and nonprofit leadership roles after surviving a childhood filled with physical and sexual abuse and being diagnosed with behavioral and learning disabilities. Her story focuses on faith and forgiveness, as well as practical ways to build purpose out of pain.

Send your photos and captions to: FloridaGator@ufalumni.ufl.edu



Julianne Korbela Gerdes (BED ’65) of Sparta, NJ, flew her Gator flag at Glacier Lagoon, Iceland.



Karri Barabas Miller (BSA ’00, DVM ’03, MS ’07) of Raleigh, NC, gave a big Gator chomp in front of the Trevi Fountain in Rome.



Raul Pojer (BSCE ’85) of Madrid, crossed the equator while sailing from London to Uruguay as part of the Clipper Round the World yacht race.



Pat (BA ’70) and **Mike Varner** (BSCE ’70) of Panama City showed their Gator pride at Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Nova Scotia.



COME BACK HOME

Mark your calendars now for UF's Grand Guard reunion Nov. 12-14, at which the Class of 1970 will be inducted.

The Grand Guard Society celebrates the rich history of The Gator Nation® and provides meaningful experiences for Gators who have reached the 50th anniversary of their first graduation. Each year we welcome a new class into the Grand Guard Society during the reunion weekend. All Grand Guard Society members are invited to participate and help welcome the new inductees.

The Grand Guard tradition began in 1955 and included graduates from East Florida Seminary, Florida Agricultural College, and South Florida Military Institute. There are approximately 900 living Grand Guard members to date.

See photos from past reunions, a video about last year's inducted members from the Class of 1969 and information about a special cruise designed for UF alumni online at <http://uff.to/rwhkt5>

WELCOME LIFE MEMBERS!



MEET FELLOW GATOR: JUAN ENJAMIO

"I joined the UF Alumni Association because it allows me to remain connected to the university that has meant so much in my life. It also allows me to give back to UF, to serve a new generation of students and to make a contribution — however small — toward UF's magnificent rise to national and international prominence. No university can be great or remain prominent without the active involvement of its alumni."

— Juan Enjamio (BSBA '82) is managing partner of international law firm Hunton Andrews Kurth's Miami office. He specializes in the defense of class and collective actions, mainly in the area of employment and labor law. He is also actively involved in community, civic and educational organizations, such as United Way, the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation and the UF Alumni Association Board's Executive Committee.

24,362

 OF YOUR **FELLOW GATORS** ARE **LIFE**
MEMBERS OF THE UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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 ufalumni.ufl.edu or calling 352-392-1905.



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ART, MUSIC
AND GATORS

A plethora of Gators came to support their alma mater at the UF at Art Basel event during Miami Art Week. The UF Alumni Association hosted the event with UF Coral Gables, the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art and UF’s College of the Arts. Pictured are **Alexa Butler** (BHS ’12), operations manager for UF Coral Gables; **Sydney Linthicum** (BSADV ’15), secretary of the Palm Beach County Gator Club; and **Warren Corpus** (BS ’95), vice president of communications for the Palm Beach County Gator Club®.



HELPING HAND
FOR NEW GATORS

The Association of Black Alumni’s Jacksonville chapter hosted a scholarship brunch for local UF-bound high schoolers. Their keynote speaker was **Jamal Sowell** (BA ’05), at left, the Florida secretary of commerce and president/CEO of Enterprise Florida Inc. Sowell talked about claiming ownership of your school on the path to achieving full potential and leveraging partnerships. Pictured from left are ABA Jacksonville members with Sowell: **Brittany Woodard** (BFA ’05), **Nicole Ross** (BSAC ’05) and **Marques Wilkes** (BA ’05).



PAIRING KIDS
WITH THE
OUTDOORS



These Washington, DC, Gator Club® members took advantage of the Gator football season’s bye week in the fall to help a local charity, City Blossoms, turn a local elementary school outdoor space into a classroom and exploration area for a teacher and her students. The project, at Randle Highlands Elementary, turned out to be a hit with the schoolchildren.



RAWLINGS
REUNION

Lifelong friendships were sparked in 1969 when these women met after moving into nearby rooms in Rawlings Hall. Since they graduated, they’ve arranged regular reunions, which have grown as their families expanded. Many of their spouses and children are now Gators, too.



From left are **Maureen McCullough** (BA ’72) of Jacksonville Beach; **Janet Lincoln Still** (BSN ’72) of Micanopy, who married **Joe Still** (BS ’71, JD ’74); **Patti Price Ross** (BS ’70, MS ’72) of Baltimore, MD, who married John Ross; **Madelyn Goldenberg Freshwater** (BSSE ’72) of Bradenton, who married Ed Freshwater; and **Trudy Walsh Johnson** (BAE ’71) of Mount Dora, who married **Mike Johnson** (BSBA ’72). Not pictured: **Anne Burch Burt** (BA ’71) of Eustis, who married **Steven Burt** (BA ’70).

GREAT
GATOR
LEGACY

Michael Joseph MacDonald (BSAE ’68) of Whispering Pines, NC, was a retired Air Force Captain who tested air-dropped weapons and oversaw test flights or running test equipment from the back seat of a chase plane. He logged time in more than 30 different types of aircraft, ranging from front-line fighters to bombers to helicopters before he retired in 1983.



He came out of retirement to teach, serving as an assistant professor in economics at Central Missouri State University, as a fellow in strategic planning and management at the International Management Centre in England, and as a management consultant and NASA High Performance Computing and Communications program coordinator at Universities Space Research Association in Washington, D.C.

MacDonald retired again in 1992, but then answered a call to serve as a consultant for 11 years at California Institute of Technology’s Center for Advanced Computing Research and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

He and his wife, Betty, moved to Whispering Pines, N.C. in 2001. He died Dec. 29 at age 77. He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

GATOR NATION: IT’S TIME TO GATOR UP!



Do you have a creative way of showing your Gator pride on the road? Florida Gator magazine wants to publish photos of your unique tags.

For those with plain-Jane tags, Gator Up! Proceeds from UF’s specialty license plate support student scholarships and alumni programs.

Put UF and our Gators on top by purchasing a UF license plate the next time you renew your tag.

GatorUp.ufl.edu



Send photos of your Gator-themed tag with your name and graduation info to:

FloridaGator@ufalumni.ufl.edu



INVESTING IN ENERGY

Sameer Reddy (BA ’05, BSBA ’05) of Brooklyn, NY, specializes in renewable energy financing at the private equity firm Energy Impact Partners. He serves as a director on numerous boards, including that for Particle, an end-to-end IOT platform company.



GATORS HOLLERED AROUND THE WORLD

UF held its second giving day event on Feb. 20, during which Gator Nation came out in full force to surpass last year's gift and amount totals, as well as UF's 2020 giving goals. While Gators stormed social media with supportive messages, UF students, faculty and staff gathered at numerous events across campus. Funds raised will support a myriad of UF programs, scholarships and research. PHOTOS BY AARON DAYE; TWITTER

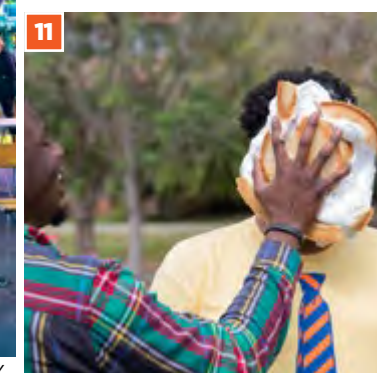


#ALLFORTHEGATORS

Social posts from top: Jason Arnold, Paul Vosilla, James Bates, the Rocky Mountain Gator Club®, Danny Wuerffel and 4-H

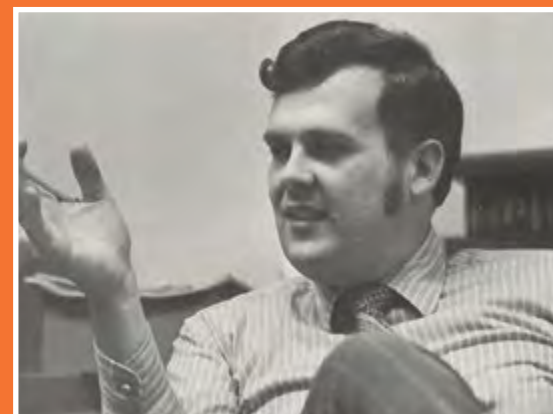
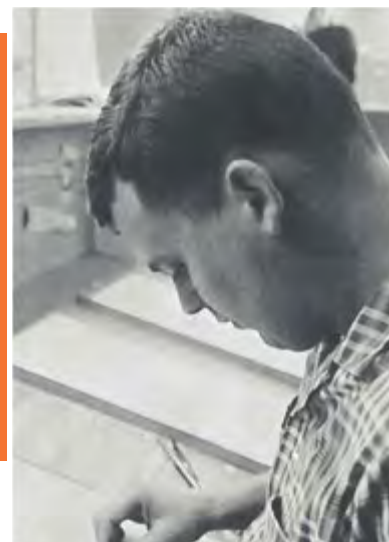


JAMES GADSBY



1-4: UF Health colleges hosted a “Pop Out and Give” event. Beau the therapy dog greeted donors, who also received a bag of popcorn. **5:** Gotham Gator Club® members rallied in New York City. **6-7:** The College of Journalism and Communications hosted James Bates’ social media video updates and its own celebration. **8-11:** UF’s main giving day activity was at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, where Albert rallied student support, President Fuchs filmed thank yous and Sorority and Fraternity Affairs Director Reggie Lane got pied when giving goals were met. **12:** Alumnus James Gadsby sported his giving day tee at Times Square.

GOTHAM GATOR CLUB



3 MINUTES WITH ED BARBER

THE FORMER ALLIGATOR NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER TALKS ABOUT HIS LIFE'S WORK, HIS BIGGEST MISTAKE AND WHAT UF STUDENTS BRING TO TODAY'S NEWS COVERAGE

Like many college students in 1966, Ed Barber had to put his studies on hold when the Vietnam War draft called him to serve. A helicopter crash and a year's worth of hospital stays later, Barber arrived back at UF with a different perspective on life and schoolwork, and the need to support his wife and child.

His path back to normalcy came through the Alligator newspaper, which was then a part of UF Student Affairs. Barber worked his way up to director of University Publications before crafting the newspaper's split from UF in 1971 when coverage about abortion access left administrators at odds with student reporters. Administrators, faculty and students alike wanted Barber to lead the newly independent student newspaper. He eventually accepted that role in 1976 and retired in 2007. He lives in Tallahassee now, but still serves as publisher emeritus and president of the Alligator Alumni Association.

For information about the Alligator Alumni Association, visit AlligatorAlumni.org or message Ed Barber through LinkedIn.

What's the biggest mistake you've ever made?

Retiring. After my wife (of 44 years) died, I had some health issues and slid into a deep depression. So, I stepped down from the Alligator because I believed it needed someone stronger than I was at the time. Worst mistake I made in my life. I miss it every day.

How does it feel to have given so many successful journalists, lawyers and other professionals a start?

Sometimes former students would say, "Thanks, Ed, for giving me the opportunity to ...," but I'd stop them and say, "You make your own opportunities. I don't edit your copy or give you assignments." I don't deserve the credit.

Name one bizarre incident from your Alligator days.

A law student group was hosting an event at which it was going to show movies for free. In the advertisement, one of our staffers put "free flicks" in the headline. She didn't know that in all caps, Futura bold font, condensed, in black with no serifs, it would come out looking obscene because of the way the L and the I were squished together.

Why does the Alligator stand out against other university student papers?

We've had fantastic investigative journalism stories. For instance, there was a man whom jailers said committed suicide in prison, but thanks to an Alligator reporter's digging, was later found to have been murdered by his cellmate. Another reporter found that doctors who served students in the UF infirmary were not licensed. This led to UF shifting control of the infirmary from the Department of Physical Education to Shands Hospital.

What about the Alligator makes you most proud?

The people it has produced. There are so many whom I should name. A few are David Lawrence, retired Miami Herald publisher; Pulitzer Prize winner Walker Lundy, former top editor of Philadelphia Enquirer; Phil Graham, a photographer who later became publisher of the Washington Post and then bought

Newsweek; Tom Julin, former Alligator editor and now the best First Amendment attorney around. He's helped us so many times. Pulitzer winner Ian Johnson, who is an expert on China and Germany. More Pulitzer winners. There are so many good people.

What does the Alligator do better than other media?

It provides a fresh perspective and dedication to readers, giving the students' point of view. These students aren't getting paid to do these stories. They aren't influenced by paying jobs or advertisers or publishers who are looking at the bottom line.

What don't people understand about the Alligator?

When pulling together all the components of a complex story and the nuances of the English language and all the punctuation rules, there are millions of opportunities for something to come out erroneously. But if a typo arises, that's the one thing people will spot.

What do you want your legacy to reflect?

The continued success of the Alligator that I had one small part in at one time. The continued success of freedom of information and the First Amendment that I've always loved.

What makes the Alligator staff great?

The quality of UF's College of Journalism and Communications, the quality of UF itself and the quality of students it produces. Also, the structure of the newspaper. We have also been experimental, starting our own student-run Tallahassee bureau and buying/restructuring the High Springs Herald ... that gave students experience in what it was like to work at a weekly newspaper.

What's your secret to working with young people?

For example, I never refer to the students as the kids — as other advisers would. I referred to them by their titles, "the editor," and respect them as young adults. They are doing the same things I was doing as a young adult, and doing the best they can. Are they going to make mistakes? Of course. Everyone makes mistakes. But they are trying hard, working for their readers, not for their own glory, to deliver information and the truth.

FINISHLINE

BY KELLEY FREUND

CORY MCGEE



GATOR TRACK STAR TURNS PASSION INTO PROFESSION

As a kid growing up in Pass Christian, MS, **Cory McGee** (BA '14) discovered the sport of running because she was an annoying younger sister — she wouldn't leave her older sister, Shannon, alone. Sometimes the two went for a run on the beach with their dad, counting the piers. Other times they ran the 3.5 miles from their grandparent's house to a local park, their grandfather following along in his pickup truck.

"If I wanted to stop, I could get in, and he would have ice cream in the car," McGee says. "But I always wanted to keep going because I wanted to stay with Shannon as long as I could — that's why I ran as far as I did as a kid. Then we'd get to the park and have ice cream."

McGee's motivation has changed over the years. Now a professional runner for New Balance and two-time world champion U.S.A. team member, she's focused on racking up personal records and qualifying for the sport's top meets. Training with a new group for the past year, she's ready for both.

McGee first began competing in the sport as a middle school student living in Athens, Greece, while her father was working as a security liaison leading up to the 2004 Summer Olympic Games. Her first competition was a 5K road race before the Olympics, and McGee placed third behind two women competing for Greece. Later, still living overseas, she ran a cross-country race in the desert in Cairo. It was those experiences that sparked her love of the sport, and when she returned to Mississippi, she went on to earn 22 state titles for her high school.

When it came time to look at colleges, McGee never really thought of UF as a realistic option. Her dad came to Gainesville his freshman year and was a walk-on for the football team before being injured. McGee would grow to love Gator football, wearing her dad's old shirts around the house and enduring some heckling when Ole Miss beat UF. But McGee's college search was focused on smaller universities — until Florida's cross-country and track coaches reached out to her.

She arrived in Gainesville with the mindset that she would someday compete at the professional level and it soon became clear she was more than capable. McGee won six SEC titles as a Gator, earning 10 All-America honors and two national runner-up finishes. She made her first U.S. team in a Florida uniform, when she placed third in the 1500 meters at the 2013 U.S.A. Track & Field Outdoor Championships. After graduating with her political science degree in 2014, she was signed by New Balance and went to Boston to train. But that move wasn't the easiest.

"For the first time, I was training on an indoor track for long periods," McGee says. "I had to layer up to run in the snow. And it wasn't just cold; it was also gloomy and dark. I loved my team, but those other things really affected my state of mind."

So in 2018, McGee moved to Boulder, CO, to train. She considers it the best decision she ever made. Colorado still has snow and gets cold, but it's sunny most of the year. Parking ruled her life in Boston, but Boulder is easy to get around and has a similar pace to Gainesville. While her training has been harder than what she's done in the past (more long runs and strength work), it's paid off. This year, she set personal records in the 1500 meter and the indoor mile, placed third in the mile at the Indoor Track and Field Championships, and her 4:04:01 in the 1500 hit the Olympic standard.

That success means training almost every day, waking up at 7:30 to meet her teammates for a workout either on the track or the road. That's usually followed by work in the gym, a few hours rest and then a second run. McGee is in bed by 10:30.

"We live a very robotic lifestyle about 45 weeks of the year," says McGee. "Our day to day isn't that exciting. But I stay motivated by being very aware of what my goals are, so I can easily remind myself what I'm working toward."

McGee missed one of those goals in July when, during a qualifying heat of the USATF Outdoor Championships, she made contact with another runner while trying to pass on the inside. Officials disqualified her, and she was unable to compete in the final for a spot on the IAAF World Championship team. But looking back, McGee says she wouldn't have run the race any differently.

"One of the challenges in athletics is responding to disappointments," McGee says. "Sometimes I just need a day to

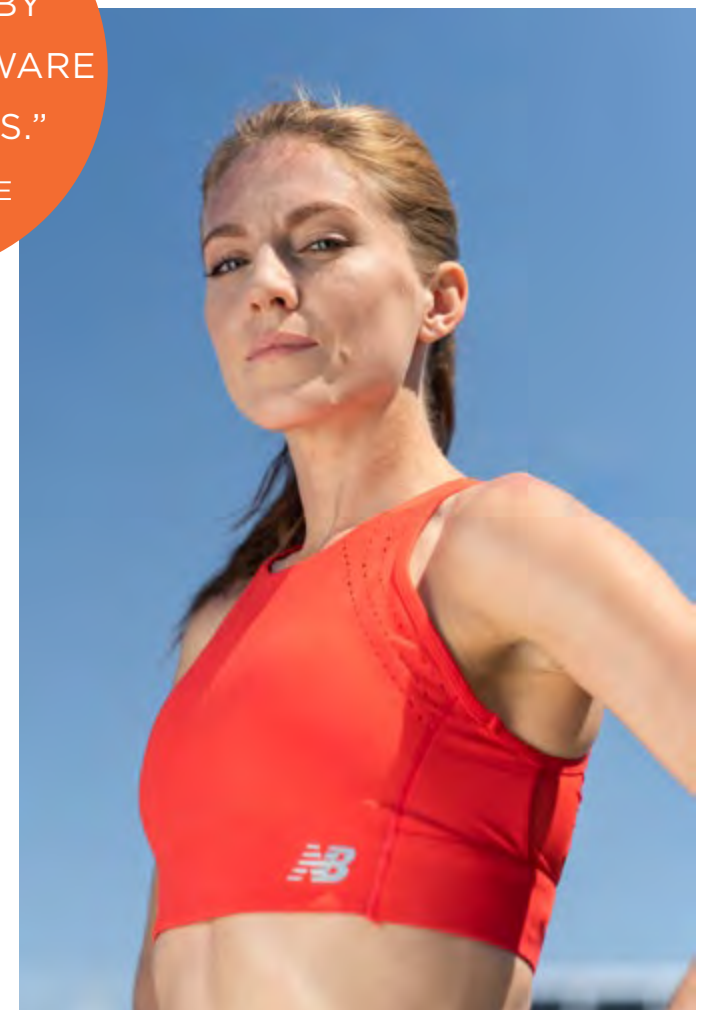
process that. I reach out to my sisters and family and talk to my biggest supporters who believe in me the most. I remind myself how hard I work and then look ahead to the next race."

Eight days later, McGee won the 2019 Sir Walter Miler in North Carolina and later the Falmouth Mile in Massachusetts. She is now focused on making the indoor world team and training for the outdoor championships in June, which serve as a qualifier for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"I think this was my best year as a pro, but I didn't necessarily get to show that at this year's championships," McGee says.

"I think I would've have competed well. I've sort of rediscovered this belief in myself with my new training group, so I'm looking forward to taking these next opportunities to be able to show off where I'm at."

"I STAY
MOTIVATED BY
BEING VERY AWARE
OF MY GOALS."
— CORY MCGEE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW BALANCE



J. Wayne Reitz Union North Lawn



J. Wayne Reitz Union Food Court

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

PHOTOS BY AARON DAYE

By mid-March, UF's campus was virtually empty, due to COVID-19. All who remained included essential staff and students who could not return home. Social distancing and video chats quickly replaced typical interactions.



A myriad of activities including Krishna Lunch were suspended.



This student with her luggage trekked through the union unimpeded.

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