

# GATOR



FLORIDA

SUMMER 2019

## ACCESS **FOR ALL**

For underserved locals, UF's student-run clinics provide health and hope. *p18*

### A VAN AND A PLAN

A Gator couple ditches the 8-to-5 to travel the world and discover themselves. *p30*

### INNOVATION U

UF inventions improve lives and boost Florida's economy. *p24*



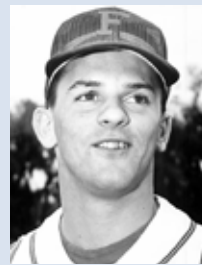
## WHAT WINNERS DO

SO FAR, 39 FORMER UF ATHLETES HAVE GIVEN A TOTAL OF \$18 MILLION TOWARD GATOR ATHLETICS' \$91 MILLION facilities plan. Their generosity, along with that of many other alumni and friends, led to the creation of the **Otis Hawkins Center for Personal and Academic Excellence at Farrior Hall** and the **Indoor Football Practice Facility**, as well as the renovations of **Exactech Arena** and **Katie Seashole Pressly Softball Stadium**. Upcoming projects include a new baseball stadium and football training center. UF thanks all the Gators who provide championship-level facilities, including:



"UF has done so much for many of us, especially those who have gone into the league. It shaped and molded us to get us where we are right now."

Chicago Bears tight end **Trey Burton (BSA 13)** played football 2010-13 and now serves on the Gator Boosters board.



"My mom and dad didn't have a whole lot of money, so having a full scholarship in both football and baseball was really big for us. You've got to pay it forward ... and get involved in the successes of education, not just athletics."

**Tommy Shannon (BSBA 66)** played football and baseball 1964-66, and founded T-Bird Restaurant Group in 1992.



"Being a Gator is a point of pride. If former players can stay invested and help UF, it's only going to perpetuate that cycle of guys who transition into the major leagues, then give back and lift up future Gator athletes."

Atlanta Braves pitcher **Darren O'Day (BSA 06)** played baseball 2003-06. He is in his 13th year playing for MLB teams.



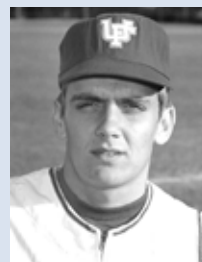
"I've always had a passion for the Gators. My wife, Nancy, and I have always had a philanthropic side to us."

**Gary Condron (BBC 76)** played baseball in 1974 and started a commercial construction company in 1987.



"I'm extremely thankful for everything that has happened in my life and realize I owe it to Florida. Fortunately, I've been in a position to give back. If you're in a position to help, I encourage you to do so."

**Steve Spurrier (BSPE 81)** played football 1963-66 and holds a plethora of records at UF. He is also one of only four people inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach and a player.



"I think these facilities projects certainly help in terms of recruiting ... If you are going to have a world-class program, it's obviously important that you give the athletes the facilities they need to do their best."

**David Thomas (BSIE 71)** played baseball 1970-71 and later headed IBM's sales and service division in the Asian-Pacific region and in North America.

Add your support to athletics facilities by calling Gator Boosters at 352-375-4683 or giving online at [www.uff.ufl.edu/giving](http://www.uff.ufl.edu/giving).





## PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL



UF students in health care degree programs continue the Gator tradition of providing free clinics for Gainesville’s underserved residents (see pages 18-23). UF, these students and the hundreds of families who benefit from their care are deeply grateful for the following foundations and each of their newly created endowments that benefit the Equal Access Clinic Network:

### UF MEDICAL GUILD

Started 60 years ago by UF College of Medicine faculty wives, this volunteer organization promotes friendship and service to UF Health and the communities it serves. It funds student scholarships, grants for UF Health and Gainesville community needs, and larger gifts to UF’s hospitals.

### JULES B. CHAPMAN, M.D., AND ANNIE LOU CHAPMAN PRIVATE FOUNDATION

The goal of the Jules B. Chapman and Annie Lou Chapman Foundation is to elevate the values of professionalism and humanism within the practice of medicine. The foundation advocates for humanism through activities within medical education and the community.



**Add your support to UF’s Equal Access Clinic** by contacting Margaret Friend, [frienm@shands.ufl.edu](mailto:frienm@shands.ufl.edu) or 352-265-7277. Or, give to fund 8251 or 23819 at [www.uff.ufl.edu/giving](http://www.uff.ufl.edu/giving)

# GATOR

FLORIDA

SUMMER 2019

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From watermelon picker to Winnie-the-Pooh, Gators recall their weird and wonderful first jobs that built muscle, wallets and character.



### ON THE COVER

UF pre-med student Ajay Mittal listens to 5-year-old Cecilia Marini Narezzi’s heartbeat at the free Equal Access Clinic, considered the largest student-run health care clinic system in the nation. Learn more on pages 18-23.

**Florida GATOR**

The Magazine of the University of Florida Alumni Association  
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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**UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:**

[ufalum@ufalumni.ufl.edu](mailto:ufalum@ufalumni.ufl.edu), 352-392-1905,  
P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604-2425

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**UFAA BOARD NEWS**

**A BANNER YEAR FOR GATORS**

**FELLOW GATORS:**

UF alumni are 430,000 strong, with members in every state and in 165 of the world's 195 countries. The Gator Nation is everywhere. I am continually inspired by our alumni's dedication and support of our great university. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as president of your UF Alumni Association this year, and I am proud of this group's accomplishments to improve UF for future Gators.

It has been an exciting year. Under President Kent Fuchs' leadership, UF became a Top 10 public university last year and rose to No. 8 in this year's U.S. News & World Report rankings. But we are Gators, so we do not intend to stop there and have set a new goal to become a top five public institution. UF's graduate and professional programs improved their stature as well. UF Law (No. 31) and MBA (No. 25) achieved their highest overall rankings ever; Accounting's graduate program (No. 9) achieved its fifth consecutive top 10 public ranking; and Veterinary Medicine is now No. 9, to name a few. UF continues to be a resource and thought leader for the state, nation and world.

Your Alumni Association continues to be committed to improving UF's national stature by increasing alumni engagement, one of the benchmarks for college rankings.

As President Fuchs mentions on the opposite page, the Gator Nation did not disappoint during Stand Up & Holler, UF's first giving day event. It was exciting to watch the enthusiasm of our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends as they spread the word on social media and hosted events on campus and throughout the country. Your generosity supported UF scholarships, programs, colleges and research initiatives, and made a direct impact on increasing alumni participation, which in turn will



**Burgoon**

help improve UF's standing. Thank you!

The UFAA also focused on improving student success this year with a goal of raising \$520,000 in scholarships. In true Gator fashion, we exceeded the goal by over \$100,000 to date. We also strengthened our partnerships with UF's Career Connections Center, Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, and hosted or supported regional events throughout Florida and across the country to help recruit talented students to UF.

We also recognized a number of Gators for their accomplishments this year. We launched the inaugural 40 Gators Under 40 awards, recognizing the top young alumni leaders who have distinguished themselves in business, community and public service (see page 49).

At each UF commencement, we also recognized talented graduating seniors with Outstanding Student Leader and Scholar Awards. In partnership with the UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, the UFAA recognized the 100 fastest-growing Gator-owned or Gator-led businesses around the globe through the Gator100, and we inducted UF's 50-year alumni into the Grand Guard society.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteer leaders who serve on the UFAA Board of Directors and to the UFAA professional staff led by Executive Director Matt Hodge. These Gators work tirelessly for the betterment of UF, and the UFAA's accomplishments could not have been possible without their leadership and support. Gator Nation, thank you for everything you do to support UF, as well.

**Brian D. Burgoon**  
President, UF Alumni Association



## Conversation with **Kent Fuchs**

# THANK YOU, GATOR NATION!

### WE ASKED YOU TO HOLLER, AND YOU ROARED.

UF held its first-ever Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day. Feb. 26.

Our goal was to bring in 5,000 gifts and raise \$5 million for the Go Greater campaign. We made the day a celebration, hosting 20 alumni events around the country and several on our campus — signaled by enormous orange-and-blue ties symbolizing Mr. Two Bits, George Edmonson.

Alumni, UF employees, students and friends got into the spirit, making contributions from their homes in all 50 states and 17 countries around the world. Donors included many longtime supporters, as well as 2,800 new supporters.

Gators from each of UF's 16 colleges participated, and by day's end, they more than doubled our goals — making 11,535 gifts totaling an amazing \$12.6 million.

It was among the most-successful-ever giving days ever held by a leading public university. I'm very grateful to everyone who participated — not just for making the day such a rousing success, but also for their impact on the university and our rising national stature.

With donors directing their gifts to their favorite UF causes, Gator Nation Giving Day helped a huge range of programs, from the Center for Latin American Studies to the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience to the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program to the Children's Miracle Network.

Equally meaningfully, Stand Up & Holler increased the our number of alumni donors, which is one of the measures that influences UF's continued rise in the U.S. News & World Report rankings among the very best public universities.

About 13 percent of alumni with bachelor's degrees currently contribute to UF, which is an increase over the 2018 number — a positive trend. However, our participation remains lower than many of the nation's very best universities, including the University of Michigan and UNC-Chapel Hill (both 17 percent).

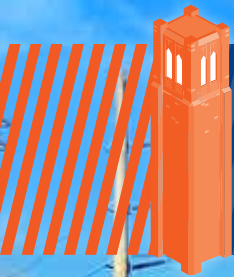
Stand Up & Holler — and future Gator Nation Giving Days — will help us narrow this gap as we continue on our path to the nation's Top 5 universities.

Once again, I am deeply thankful to all those who hollered, shouted and roared for UF — and I look forward to hearing that roar again at next year's Gator Nation Giving Day. It is great to be a Florida Gator!

**Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.**  
President  
University of Florida







**UF**

# UNIVERSITY AVENUE





## PRIDE OF THE SUNSHINE'S NEW HOME: THE GATOR MARCHING BAND'S PRACTICE COMPLEX OPENS

Thanks to the generosity of UF's Provost, Athletic Association and Gator Band alumni and friends, the **Gator Marching Band Practice Complex near the south end of Gale Lemerand Drive** (formerly called pony field) is almost complete. On the south end it includes a covered pavilion for rehearsals, alumni events and shelter from inclement weather. Soon, it will also feature an outdoor research and teaching facility with permanent restrooms and instrument storage.

Since repeated marching band practices kill natural grass, this facility includes an artificial turf field with drainage, permanent field markings and lighting that mirror the game day experience and allow for evening rehearsals. See the field being assembled at [arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/building-a-new-home](https://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/building-a-new-home).





# AFTER DENTIST, DAVID COMES TO UF

David DeVore's adventures with anesthesia at age 7 inadvertently earned him about 139 million YouTube views and counting. But now at age 18, the "David After Dentist" viral video star's purposeful academic success earned him admission into the UF Innovation Academy's spring 2020 freshman class.

"I'm so excited to come to UF next spring," said DeVore, who plans to study computer science.

Innovation Academy gives motivated students a small-college experience focused on innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, ethics and leadership. IA students focus on developing knowledge to grow new business opportunities, services and products through curricular and hands-on internship experiences.

Although DeVore has already amassed a vast amount of experience in mass communications, being interviewed by news outlets, and meeting Jimmy Fallon, Harry Connick Jr., Daniel Tosh and other pop-culture stars, DeVore says he looks forward to studying and working behind the scenes.

DeVore will work toward a minor in innovation, which IA Director Jeff Citty says can help graduates stand out among their peers.

"Our students have the added edge of being trained to focus on design thinking, prototyping skills, leadership ethics and other innovation skills that will help them in any industry role," Citty said. "David is exactly the type of student the Innovation Academy is looking for — students immersed in technology who want to develop their skills."

PHOTO BY AARON DAYE



DAVID  
DEVORE

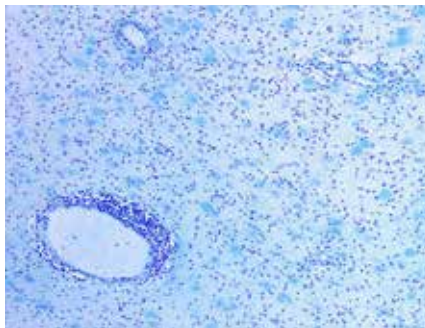


## UF HEALTH FINDS MOLECULE THAT INFLUENCES MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

In multiple sclerosis (MS) patients, the body's immune system goes rogue and attacks the protective covering on nerve fibers. Now, a group led by UF Health researchers found a molecule that impedes the development of an MS-like disease in mice.

The conclusions are an important first step in determining the initial molecular events that cause the development of MS, said **Dorina Avram**, a College of Medicine professor and leader of the research study. Her student, **Dr. Jonathan Cho**, made the discovery.

The findings mark the first time that the enzyme in question has been identified as having a role in modifying immune cells. UF scientists hope the discovery will aid the development of



MARVIN TOI

**Multiple sclerosis damages the protective covering (myelin sheath) that surrounds nerve fibers.**

future MS therapies. MS affects about 2.3 million people worldwide and is the most common neurological disease in young adults.



HERBERT WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering welcomed three new faculty members: (from left) Christophe Bobda, Zoleikha Biron and Farimah Farahmandi.

### RISE TO FIVE: UF HIRING BOOM HALFWAY TO GOAL

Beginning in early 2018, UF set out to achieve two goals through its Faculty 500 hiring initiative: Reach Top 5 public university status by strengthening many of its research disciplines and improve its student-faculty ratio from 20:1 to 16:1.

This initiative reached a milestone in May when UF filled its 231st new faculty post. And 90 more faculty have accepted offers to begin at UF this fall. These new Gators are strategically

placed throughout the university's 16 colleges and come from nearly 10,000 applicants. **Provost Joe Glover** is spearheading the effort in partnership with each college dean and unit director. While the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences claims most of the new faculty (66 so far), the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering hired 39, and 21 are going to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



UF/IFAS

### UV LIGHT, NOT PESTICIDES

**UF/IFAS** plant pathologist professor **Natalia Peres** is working with other scientists to create a machine that uses ultraviolet light at night to suppress pests and plant diseases, such as dusty mold. Her study is in its third season and proves conclusively that UV light is just as effective at curbing some pathogens and pests as pesticides. To aid her efforts, IFAS researchers built Thorvald, a robot that farmers can use to treat crops with UV rays.

### HEARD IN GATORVILLE:

*"Farmers of the future are likely to be data scientists, programmers and robot wranglers."*



#### — SENTHOLD ASSENG

UF/IFAS professor who co-wrote an article with professor Frank Asche about how the monitoring and collection of information

— from sensors in a field or attached to livestock — will make it possible to trace food from farm to fork.

*"Each member stepped up and led the team ... based on each of our skills, which is likely what made us successful."*

#### — MATTHEW MUSIAL

Gator Theme Park Engineering & Design Club member about his team's first place roller coaster design win at the Ryerson Invitational Thrill Design Competition at Universal Orlando

## NUMBERS OF NOTE

### LEVEL 1

#### Top trauma center certification UF

Health Shands Hospital received this spring. This makes UF Health one of only 168 such facilities nationwide recognized for excellence in caring for trauma patients. UF treated more than 3,000 such cases in 2018 (more than eight per day).

### 7 MILLION

Gallons of water saved by UF's on-campus water-saving laundry initiative.

### 10,303

UF seniors who graduated in May, including 848 first-generation college students. This class represents every U.S. state, three U.S. territories and 100 countries.

### \$1.2B

Amount of timber farm losses reported in an eight-county area after October's Hurricane Michael. While growers must wait years for new seedlings to mature, UF/IFAS ag experts are showing how hops and hemp cash crops could be a win-win for farmers and consumers. Other potential crops include olives and lupines.



AARON DAY

Dr. Duane Mitchell, co-director of UF's Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy, speaks at the summit.

## REMISSION SUMMIT UNITES EXPERTS TO COMBAT BRAIN CANCER

As the CEO of one of the country's largest private holding companies, **Anita Zucker** (BAE 72) is rarely caught off guard. But even she was struck by the collective knowledge of those who attended the UF and UF Health-sponsored ReMission Summit Feb. 22-24 in Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek hotel.



Zucker

There were researchers, clinicians and physician-scientists representing major brain tumor research centers across the U.S., Canada and Germany. Although she isn't a medical expert, Zucker said she sensed the potential for change in the room.

"We are driven by the same shared aspiration, a vision of a future where the odds have shifted in favor of the patient, where a brain tumor diagnosis is a comma, not a full stop, in a patient's life," Zucker said.



Rosen

CEO of the InterTech Group and a UF trustee, Zucker served as chair of the inaugural summit. Keynote speaker **Gregory Simon**, president of the Biden Cancer Initiative, talked about his perspective as a cancer research supporter and cancer survivor.

The gathering was organized by **Dr. Duane Mitchell** and **Dr. William Friedman**, co-directors of UF's Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy, to catalyze conversations and collaborative research around four new scientific directives that could boost brain tumor patient survival rates and quality of life.

The summit also served as the official launchpad for the **ReMission Alliance Against Brain Tumors** — a groundbreaking, 10-year partnership between UF and 11 other research institutions, fueled by a \$12 million seed gift from Orlando hotel magnate **Harris Rosen**.

"We are confident that with Dr. Mitchell's guidance, the ReMission Alliance will succeed in its quest for a successful treatment for all brain cancers," Rosen said.

— MATT COLEMAN

"There are so many bright and talented future Gators with physical disabilities whom we hope will learn about UF and our commitment to inclusion. There is a place for them within the Gator Nation."

— GERRY ALTAMIRANO



UF's Disability Resource Center Director

## UF EARNS TOP RANKS FOR PHYSICAL DISABILITY ACCESS

UF's Disability Resource Center (DRC) has been ranked No. 6 in College Magazine's "Top 10 Campuses for Students with Physical Disabilities."

A few of the reasons cited by the ranking include lift systems across campus, Electronic Information Technology and Accessibility policy development, adaptive yoga classes and several DRC scholarships.

### 250+

UF students with mobility or physical disabilities. The DRC estimates this number since some students do not request accommodations or support.

### 3,552

UF students who use DRC services each year. The DRC's demand is growing, with about 400 new students registering with the center each semester.

### 12

DRC staff who ensure UF students receive support





CAMPAIGN UPDATE

# TOGETHER WE GO GREATER TO PRESERVE **YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR, THE GO GREATER CAMPAIGN HAS FOCUSED ON INITIATIVES RELATED TO HEALTH AND MEDICINE, bringing together experts from around the world to unlock the mysteries of the brain while addressing other pressing challenges. Driven by the power and passion of the Gator Nation, the campaign continues to break records and exceed expectations.

As we look to the coming year, we will focus on challenges related to our world ecosystems. Through our campaign theme of **Your Environment**, we will address threats to nature, help to build more resilient global coastlines and identify sustainable solutions to other environmental concerns. We will continue to assemble and deploy the brightest minds from across disciplines to protect our planet and, in doing so, protect ourselves.



UF

GO GREATER



# 17

**Number of UF graduate programs that rose in the U.S. News & World Report rankings this year.** Those earning Top 10 positions among their disciplines include:

- **Online Education**  
(College of Education): No. 1
- **Agricultural and Biological Engineering** (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences): No. 3
- **Tax Law**: No. 3
- **Student Counseling and Personnel Services** (College of Education): No. 3
- **Special Education**: No. 7
- **Pharmacy**: No. 9
- **Veterinary Medicine**: No. 9
- **Physical Therapy**: No. 10



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

# 800

Boxes of papers and other historical materials former **U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson** donated to UF's **George A. Smathers Libraries** in February. Documenting his multi-decade career in public service, the items include his 1986 Space Shuttle Columbia mission flight suit and the Gator bumper sticker he took into space (above). Nelson's gift makes the sixth such senate collection housed at UF.



# 34

Years **Myra Morgan** devoted to empowering students through her roles within UF Student Affairs. She retired in February as assistant dean for Student Services and director of Greek life.

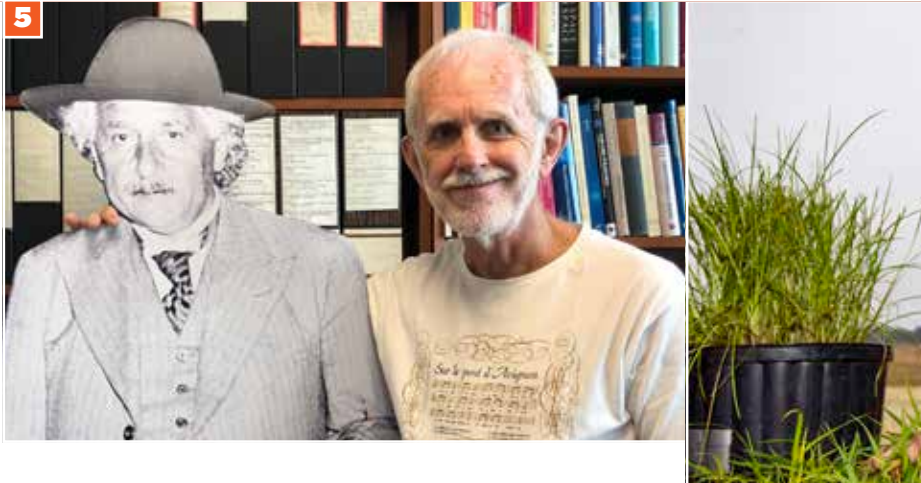
## SEEN IN GATORVILLE



NICK BURCHELL



TIM CASEY



COURTESY OF CLIFF WILL





**1. SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL EXPANDS:**

Almost a decade after opening, UF's College of Veterinary Medicine had to **expand its facilities** to better train students and accommodate its rapid growth of emergency and critical care services. Construction of the **\$6 million, two-story addition** finished in February and added 12,000 square feet. It also has more space for primary care and dentistry services.



UF HEALTH

**2. ALMOST DONE:** Students, faculty and staff alike are eagerly waiting the end of the **College of Education's renovation** this fall. The \$29 million project strives to maintain historic character while meeting the needs of today's learners. Visit [www.education.ufl.edu](http://www.education.ufl.edu) for details.

**3. NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:**

UF Track and Field head coach Mike Holloway (front, center) celebrated another indoor national championship in March. This makes the **team's fifth national title** and Holloway's ninth.

**4. BABY SAVED WITH BERLIN HEART:**

At 6 months old, Kennedy Curry was fighting for her life. A disease of her heart muscle reduced its function to only 8 percent. UF Health doctors kept her healthy with an artificial device (Berlin Heart) while she awaited a heart transplant. But remarkably, her heart recovered and **she no longer needs the device, nor a transplant**. Her parents say the now-17-month-old is a "firecracker."

**5. PROFESSOR WINS EINSTEIN MEDAL:**

UF physics professor Clifford Will is the 2019 Albert Einstein Medal recipient, recognized for his **contributions to physics and to the Theory of General Relativity**, including the post-Newtonian expansions of the Einstein field equations.

**6. AND THE WINNER IS:** UF/IFAS

agronomy professor, plant-breeding expert and UF alumna Ann Blount (MS 80, PhD 84) is **Florida's Woman of the Year in Agriculture**, named by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Since 1988, Blount has bred new grasses, small grains and legumes that are healthier for both livestock and the environment.



TYLER JONES UF/IFAS



## MEET INDIA'S NEWLY DISCOVERED STARRY DWARF FROG

*Astrobatrachus kurichiyana*, also known as the starry dwarf frog, has only been found on a single hill range in India's Western Ghats. The frog is about the size of a thumbnail, and its constellation-like speckles are tinged with blue, an uncommon color on frogs in that area.



## UF WORKS ON PRECISION AGRICULTURE'S NEXT LEVEL

UF is working on new software that — when paired with a drone, GPS mapping and a video camera — would update farmers on the health of their crops and even suggest remedies for water or nutrient problems. When plants turn ill, farmers typically have to take soil samples to a lab for testing and analysis. This new UF program **uses a drone camera's near infrared technology (NIR) to measure different bands of light reflected by plants**: the healthier the plant, the more light bands it reflects. Then, the software compares measurements to past videos and prescribes solutions, such as more fertilizer here, less there.

## 95%

**Cure rate of a new hepatitis C drug** called sofosbuvir.

UF conducted two random phase 3 trials for its maker, Gilead. Hep C affects more than 3 million people nationwide, who often show no symptoms for years. The new treatment takes eight to 12 weeks.



## 180

**Citrus seedlings involved in a one-year UF study** in

which their trunks and branches were wrapped with a protective netting. These low-cost measures were found to prevent Huanglongbing, also called HLB or **citrus greening disease**, which is transferred from tree to tree by an insect. HLB has **reduced Florida's citrus production by 70 percent over the last 20 years**. One UF study showed from 2012-16, HLB caused \$4.4 billion in losses and eliminated about 8,000 jobs.

## APP-EALING IDEAS:

### GATOR-CREATED MOBILE APPS INVENTED TO IMPROVE LIVES



**PILL CHIMES** (\$1.99) helps people manage complex medication regimens. Users input their list of medicines and dosages with optional descriptions and pictures. Among its features are recurring reminders that prompt users to specify whether the dose was “taken” or “not taken.” Creator: UF Health Department of Neurology Chairman Dr. Michael Okun



**TRACKING INVENTORY** (AVAILABLE FOR LICENSING) eliminates the need for expensive barcode readers by using any mobile phone's camera to scan asset barcodes. UF Technical Services Developer Jeff Cutaio created the app when he needed a better way to track UF equipment. He used the familiar iOS interface design to decrease users' learning curve. This app is available for license. Contact Richard Croley at rcroley@ufl.edu for details.



### IN DEVELOPMENT:

**VIRTUAL TRAFFIC STOP** improves safety and efficiency for both law enforcement officers and civilians during traffic stops by allowing them to share information and communicate via their mobile devices while remaining in their cars. Among the app's many options is a third-party conference call for drivers who are minors or don't speak English. Creators: UF Computer and Information Science and Engineering faculty Juan Gilbert, Isabel Laurenceau, Dekita Moon, Jessica Jones and Michelle Emamdjie.



GETTY IMAGES

Florida's Capitol in Tallahassee

## 6 SENIORS

The student journalists who began to report on Florida's major government agencies in January as part of **Fresh Take Florida**, an effort to intensify coverage of state leadership at a time when state capitals are increasingly under-covered. The students will receive course credit for their efforts and will focus on topics relevant to the North Central Florida area and the UF community, including higher education, health care and environmental protection. The program is the brainchild of **Frank LoMonte**, director of **UF's Brechner Center for Freedom of Information**.

## 4 OF 4

All the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees this year are connected with UF. **Don Bennink** is credited for revolutionizing the dairy industry with his innovative genetic research and reproduction practices. His farm, North Florida Holsteins, is a UF College of Veterinary Medicine field lab. **Richard Gaskalla**, who collaborates with UF/IFAS researchers, developed new techniques to fight citrus canker. These men, along with **Michael Stuart**, the former longtime president of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association who represented the ag industry at the federal level, and **Sam Killebrew Sr.**, who invented a bulk fertilizer hauler and other efficient farming processes, are all contributors to UF programs.



CAMPUS COLLECTIONS: **DR. HARRY LEE'S MAGNIFICENT AND UNIQUE SHELLS**



KRISTEN GRACE/ FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

# Treasures Underfoot

Some are petite as snowflakes, others spiral like ballerinas. In all, there are almost a Smillion shells in the collection retired physician Dr. Harry Lee donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History. A longtime museum volunteer, Lee's grouping is one of the world's largest, with specimens he gathered around the globe, from Jacksonville to Hawaii, Australia to Fiji and Kenya, the Philippines to Tahiti and Tanzania.

"Wherever the mollusks are, I will go," says Lee, a self-proclaimed citizen scientist.

He began collecting in 1947 while visiting his grandmother. Her neighbor taught him how to examine and catalog species. Since then, he's found rare shells on cliffs, in oceans and in swamps. In 1980, he found a new-to-science species of carrot glass snail in his Jacksonville backyard. In all, 19 mollusk species are named after him, and he has helped name 35 others and one mollusk flatworm parasite. The collection is valued at \$1 million, but Lee says it's worth much more. "Shells are intrinsically beautiful ... forming templates of evolution in beautiful, mosaic patterns."

— DAVID FINNERTY

**FACULTY SUPERSTAR: BAHAR ARMAGHANI**  
COLLEGE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING



**KNOWN FOR ...**

- **Establishing** UF's LEED Lab (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)
- **Being** one of four LEED fellows (the only woman) in Florida
- **Establishing** UF's LEED program and leading it for over 10 years
- **Being** the Sustainability in the Built Environment director and lecturer
- **Arming** students with knowledge and tools to combat climate change
- **Overseeing** dozens of past UF projects, including renovations of the O'Connell Center and Smather's Library West, and construction of the Southwest Recreation Center and Heavener Football complex
- **Developing** and teaching courses in sustainable design, construction and operation

## GREENING AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

CONSTRUCTION EXPERT OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO WAYS HER INDUSTRY IS **REDUCING ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT**

**Q. What is your SBE program?**

**A.** Sustainability in the Built Environment is the youngest and one of the fastest growing programs in our college. It has grown from five students in 2008 to 135 students today. Our 164 alumni are already leaders in the field, working for top global companies. Our growing enrollment is a reflection of the industry's demand for sustainability majors who can be integrated into the fabric of every organization: public or private.

**Q. What do few people understand about green building practices?**

**A.** The impact from construction lasts for decades and affects current and future generations as buildings consume major resources. Non-sustainable construction practices are responsible for enormous amounts of resource consumption, global energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Q. What construction materials help the most?**

**A.** Green materials, such as porotherm bricks, green insulation, low E glazing and other renewable and biodegradable materials help create energy-efficiencies and require fewer resources to develop. Also, materials with low or no VOCs

(volatile organic compounds) contribute to better indoor air quality.

**Q. Aren't green building practices more expensive?**

**A.** They do not have to be due to the market transformation around materials and services, and the improvement of building codes. Green buildings save money because they reduce energy and water consumption, increase productivity, reduce absenteeism and decrease maintenance. The lease/cost and resale values of green buildings are usually greater than those conventionally built, too. Going green is a long-term commitment but can save businesses and consumers long-term and decrease their carbon footprint.

**Q. Name the biggest emerging sustainability trend?**

**A.** WELL Building Standards: advancing the health and well-being of people in buildings globally. WELL builds on LEED, starting where LEED left off, and includes nourishment, fitness, mind and comfort. It is changing industry standards by integrating more wellness and healthy lifestyles into the built environment. Living green is becoming increasingly popular from both a financial and human perspective.

## \$14.9M

**Amount the U.S. Department of Defense granted to UF cardiologist Dr. Carl Pepine** for his study on why angina (chest pain) in women is thought to be caused by coronary artery disease. Unrelated to this study, Pepine recently received the Wegner Award for Excellence in Medical Research for his decades of work in the field of woman's heart health.

## \$3.4M

**Amount of a new federal grant UF scientists are using to test a new citrus tree injection system.**

Through a tractor- or ATV-operated robotic arm that grips and punctures the trunk with its many small needles, chemicals are injected into the plant, reducing its susceptibility to the citrus greening bacteria, which has devastated the citrus industry.

## FIRST

**Online master's degree program in the nation to focus on public interest communications.** The College of Journalism and Communications program launched in May to help students develop the skills, strategies, theory and techniques necessary to build movements and drive positive social change.





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“Providing free, high-quality health care  
no question”



Pop-up rooms at Anthem Church provide privacy for an elderly patient to consult with coordinator Tory Finley on Spanish Night.



# Ons asked”

## At these free health care clinics, UF student volunteers practice with a purpose

Story by Barbara Drake (MFA 04) • Photos by Sarah Kiewel Fisher (BSJ 05, MA 18)

**G**ainesville, March 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.: The waiting room at the UF Health Family Medical Group at Main Street looks exactly as it does during the day: bright blue and gold carpeting, adults and children waiting in comfy chairs, busy receptionists checking in patients.

But tonight’s after-hours clinic has one major difference: It’s free.

The Equal Access Clinic Network (EACN), a group of free health care clinics in Gainesville established by the UF College of Medicine, is a training ground for future doctors, therapists and pharmacists. And for patients with no or limited insurance, it’s a lifesaver.

“The cost — no cost — is wonderful,” said patient Mayara Marini Narezzi. “And at night, it is easier to come.”

Patients range from working parents to students on a budget to the elderly to the homeless. Some come in with a sprained ankle. Others struggle with diabetes or high blood pressure. Whatever the circumstances, patients know they’ll get high-quality, comprehensive health care, “no questions asked,” said EACN Executive Director Adam Grippin (BSCHE 13), an M.D./Ph.D. candidate.

“We’ll take care of anyone who walks through our door,” added medical student Patrick Bliven (BSA 17, 4 Medicine), director of the Eastside clinic. “We don’t ask for ID. All we ask for is their name and a way to contact them so we can follow up.” The EACN’s attentive care “enables patients to live the long, healthy lives that they deserve,” said Grippin.

Since its launch in 1992, Equal Access has grown to four primary care sites and

12 specialty clinics in areas of greatest need throughout Gainesville. Doors are open four evenings a week, with dedicated nights for pediatric care, dentistry, talk therapy and more. The clinics are run by students from the health professions, with oversight from practicing physicians, including faculty advisor Dr. David Feller (BS 85, MD 89).

### UF’s EAC is thought to be the largest student-run free health care clinic in the nation

Recently, the EACN collaborated with Dr. Jonathan Harrell (MD 10), of the Mobile Outreach Clinic, to give patients private exam space and ultrasound services, as well as free prescriptions through the Grace Marketplace Pharmacy.

The EACN is among the largest student-run free health care clinics in the nation, treating 2,500+ patients a year and supported by an army of Gator volunteers. Medical students examine and diagnose patients, overseen by attending physicians. They’re aided by undergraduates (mostly pre-med) who record patients’ vitals and health care



Pre-med student Ajay Mittal uses a low-cost smartphone attachment to check 5-year-old Cecilia Marini Narezzi for eye disease.

histories and do follow-up calls.

A core EACN belief is that everyone, regardless of income level, deserves excellent medical care. Health care instability is a pressing problem throughout the United States, where almost 1 in 5 Americans can’t afford or access needed medical services.

Volunteers speak of the EACN as a “pure” experience that connects them with their reasons for wanting to become a doctor in the first place.

“This is the most fulfilling part of my day: being there for patients,” said Dr. Sean Taasan (BS 16, MD 19), chief of EACN clinical operations and a new M.D.

Likewise, patients get attached to their student physicians, like Gislaine Maurice, who came to the Main Street clinic in March with her young daughter, Deborah.

“Oh, I love the service here,” she said. “Dr. Sean is the best.”

Deborah peered up at Taasan and smiled: “The best.”





Forging a bond: Gislaine Maurice discusses her symptoms with Dr. Sean Taasan as daughter Deborah looks on (Main Street Clinic).

“People often walk around for years, not knowing why they’re in pain. At the Spanish Clinic, people feel comfortable opening up in their own language.”



**TORY FINLEY**  
(3 Medicine), Founder & Coordinator,  
Spanish Night @  
Anthem Church

While volunteering for a medical mission in Peru, Tory Finley hauled buckets of water up mountainsides to perform exams in shantytowns. So it’s no surprise the determined student physician (and UF Health interpreter) teamed up with fellow Spanish-speaker Massiel Montes De Oca (3 Medicine) to launch a Spanish Night clinic when they saw services in that language were needed. Since its opening in March 2018, their initiative has more than doubled visits by Spanish-speaking patients at the EAC network, not just at Gainesville’s Anthem Church, where Spanish Night is held, but at other the other three primary-care sites, where student volunteers also *hablan español*.

Better communication can lead to health breakthroughs. Finley, 25, remembers one patient from last year who reluctantly admitted she had been in pain with an undiagnosed gynecological condition — for seven years. “The other doctors she’d seen, who mostly didn’t speak Spanish, had attributed it to a kidney infection and given her antibiotics, which didn’t help,” said Finley. “She felt that no one was really listening to her.” An ultrasound determined the patient had endometriosis and uterine fibroids, which EACN-referred providers treated for free.

“She actually is pregnant right now,” said Finley. “She had been trying for eight years to have a second child.”



“This is what I really, really enjoy doing — making the clinic patients my priority every Thursday night.”

**SEAN TAASAN** (BS 16, MD 19), *Chief of Clinical Operations, Equal Access Clinic Network*



In May, 24-year-old Dr. Sean Taasan graduated from UF medical school and started packing for Duke University, where he'll pursue a residency in internal medicine. His experiences volunteering at the EACN set his future course as an internist.

Taking time to educate patients about their conditions and options is essential, he said.

One of Taasan's patients last year had inconclusive results for a pap smear. Convinced that she had cervical cancer, the woman was

“extremely distraught,” but Taasan calmly sat her down and explained the test often yields false positives.

“At the end of the visit, she understood she needed to go for a follow-up test,” said Taasan. “It did not mean she had cancer based on that one result alone.”

“Just being able to provide some peace of mind to her and help her make the right medical decision was very, very meaningful to me,” he said.

“I've seen patients who likely wouldn't have survived if it wasn't for the care and connections to resources the Equal Access Clinic gave them.”

**PATRICK BLIVEN** (BSA 17, 4 Medicine), *Director, Eastside Primary Care Clinic*

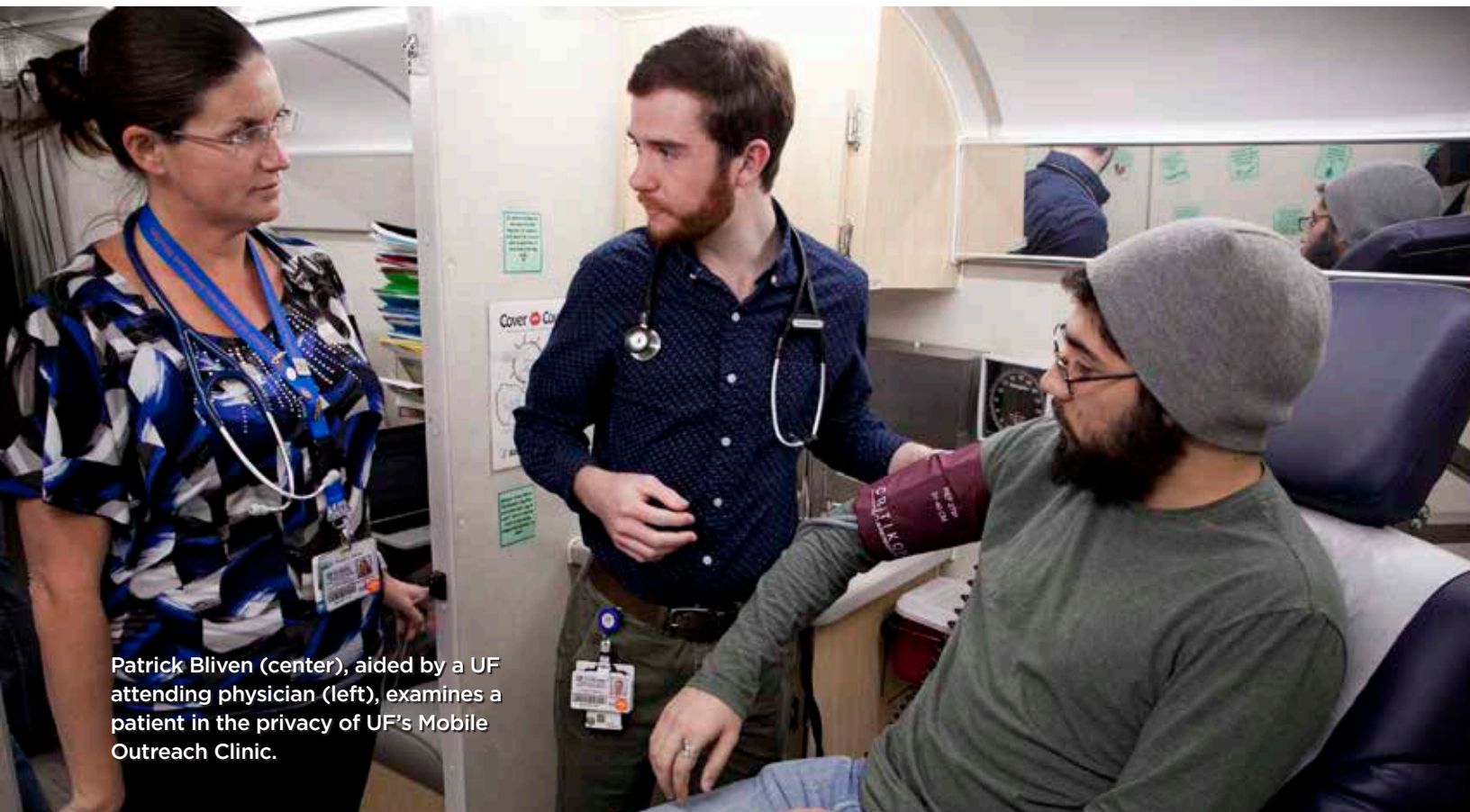


Patrick Bliven is in his last year of medical school, preparing for a future in internal medicine. Four years of volunteering at the EACN have deepened the 24-year-old's commitment to helping people of all income levels get the medical care they deserve.

The no-cost, open-door EAC model literally saves lives, as Bliven has seen.

Last year, a woman in her 20s came to the Eastside clinic with a general medical problem. As they talked, Bliven realized she was depressed and suicidal. Thanks to the EACN's connections with UF Health, Bliven quickly got the woman acute inpatient care; after, he treated her physical problems and guided her to Free Therapy Night.

“Last time we saw her, she was doing great,” he said. “It was very rewarding.”



Patrick Bliven (center), aided by a UF attending physician (left), examines a patient in the privacy of UF's Mobile Outreach Clinic.



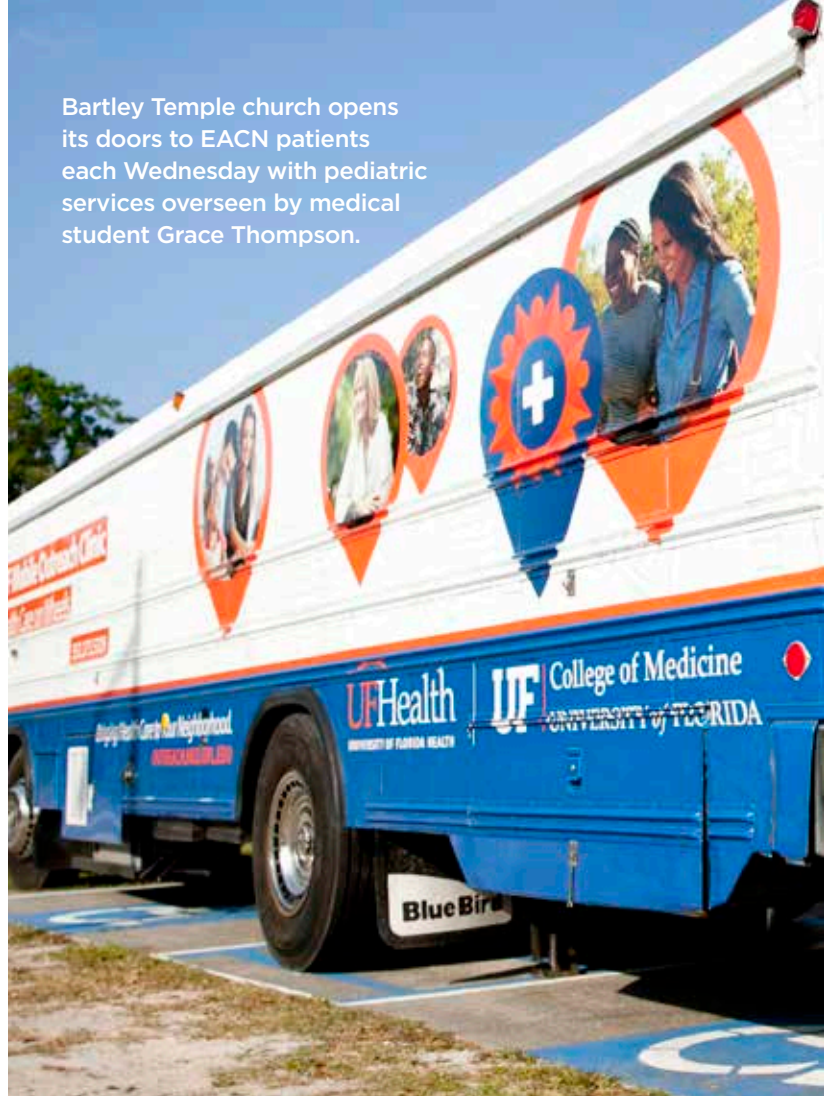
“We make a huge difference in children’s lives; we keep them healthier and out of the ER.”

**GRACE THOMPSON** (3 Medicine), *Founder & Director, Pediatric Night @ Bartley Temple*

Lack of transportation, no or limited insurance, a demanding boss who won’t give Mom or Dad time off for an appointment: These barriers can prevent a disadvantaged child from seeing a pediatrician. And they’re what prompted third-year medical student Grace Thompson to establish a clinic just for kids in the heart of Gainesville’s most medically-underserved community.

Since Pediatric Night began in June 2018, the number of children treated at the Bartley Temple clinic has more than doubled. And it’s helping out with much-needed doctor notes for school team sports.

“Co-pays for doctor visits can be expensive, especially if a family has more than one child in sports,” says Thompson. “Pediatric Night gives more local kids the opportunity to take part in athletics, which is so healthy for them physically, emotionally and socially.”



Bartley Temple church opens its doors to EACN patients each Wednesday with pediatric services overseen by medical student Grace Thompson.

“I want the community to know Free Therapy Night exists; we’re here to help people with whatever they’re going through.”

**ELENA POLEJAEVA** (MS 17, 5 Psychology), *Co-director, Free Therapy Night @ HealthStreet*

Whoever said “talk is cheap” never went to a therapist; the average counseling session in the U.S. costs between \$75 and \$150.

Fortunately for Gainesville residents, the EACN offers Free Therapy Night, a weekly mental-health clinic held at UF’s HealthStreet facility. Patients are allowed up to five consecutive 50-minute sessions with a graduate student therapist (overseen by a licensed psychologist).

Even those five sessions can make a real difference in a person’s outlook, said Elena Polejaeva, 32, a graduate student in neuropsychology and the clinic’s co-director.

Depression and anxiety are the most common problems people seek help for, while others struggle with substance abuse and domestic violence. In all cases, the Equal Access therapists gladly lend an ear and connect patients with social services, if needed.

“It’s amazing how much help our free clinic can provide,” said Polejaeva.



“I’m always surprised at how open people can be coming in for the first time,” said Elena Polejaeva (at right) at Free Therapy Night.





## GO GREATER WITH THE EQUAL ACCESS CLINIC NETWORK

- **Visit** the EACN website at [equalaccess.med.ufl.edu](http://equalaccess.med.ufl.edu) to learn more about clinic services, hours and locations.
- **Donate** to the Equal Access Clinic Fund online to support UF professional student training and community health. Specify fund 8251 or 23819 at [www.uff.ufl.edu/giving](http://www.uff.ufl.edu/giving).
- **Volunteer** if you are a resident, attending physician or health care professional (PA, NP, social worker). Call 352-273-9425 or email [equalaccessrecruiter@gmail.com](mailto:equalaccessrecruiter@gmail.com).



“Only through Equal Access would I be able to do a large-scale study like this as an undergraduate. It’s amazing.”

**AJAY MITTAL** (BS 19), *Undergraduate Chair of Research & Metrics, EACN*

Few undergraduates can claim they spearheaded an innovative way to deliver health care to a needy population. But pre-med student Ajay Mittal, 21, did just that. As the undergraduate chair of research projects for the EACN, Mittal was searching in 2018 for an inexpensive way to screen patients for eye diseases when he found a smartphone attachment — a “digital eye” — that turns an iPhone into a high-powered ophthalmoscope. Cost? Just \$280.

Flash forward to 2019: The portable device has become the centerpiece of a full-fledged study at the EACN, involving two UF ophthalmologists, one health data scientist and 1,000 participants across the network’s four main sites.

“We’re using the device and the images we get to make an AI software that can risk-stratify if someone has glaucoma or other optic-nerve pathologies,” said Mittal in March.

He demonstrated the device on 5-year-old Cecilia Marini Narezzi, who was accompanying her mother, Mayara, at the Main Street clinic. Without eye drops and bright lights, Mittal was able to see clearly into the child’s retina and take a sharp photo for analysis.

To Cecilia, the picture may have looked like a creepy eyeball, but Mittal saw it another way: “A beautiful retinal image,” he said.



# INNOV



FROM VOTING TO VACCINES,  
UF INVENTIONS IMPROVE LIVES  
AND BOOST FLORIDA'S  
ECONOMY



# ATTENTION





# WELCOME TO TECH-VILLE

By Sara Dagen (BS 89, MEd 13)

When I first started at UF Innovate | Tech Licensing in 2015, I thought “plasma” was what you could give at a blood bank when you were strapped for cash. “Attitude” was what you exhibited — good or bad — in your approach to daily life, and “gene therapy” was dress-down Fridays.

Imagine my surprise when I edited tech summaries that described using plasma (a hot, ionized gas) to sterilize equipment or to power a fan as flat as wallpaper. I learned that “attitude control” refers to the orientation of spacecraft in space. And “gene therapy” is much better than wearing denim. It’s therapy delivered by a virus to correct a genetic disease, such as blindness.



My first months in the office were a virtual vocabulary lesson. I have since learned to expect words and ideas well beyond my scope.

What kind of ideas come through UF Innovate | Tech Licensing? Anything a UF researcher, student or staffer can imagine.

UF Innovate — which includes Tech Licensing, Ventures and two business incubators, The Hub and Sid Martin Biotech — are at the heart of UF’s tradition of translational research, commonly called “bench to bedside” or “lab to market.” This research is driven by a mission to improve lives. UF Innovate provides the entrepreneurial ecosystem to grow these ideas into innovative products or services.

People from all over the university report their more than 300 discoveries a year to UF Innovate. Each is novel or unique in some way, and so the path from lab to market can be quite a puzzle. That’s why UF Innovate entities comprise so many roles and responsibilities.

Since 2015, UF Innovate has licensed about 450 technologies. Not bad for just four years’ work.

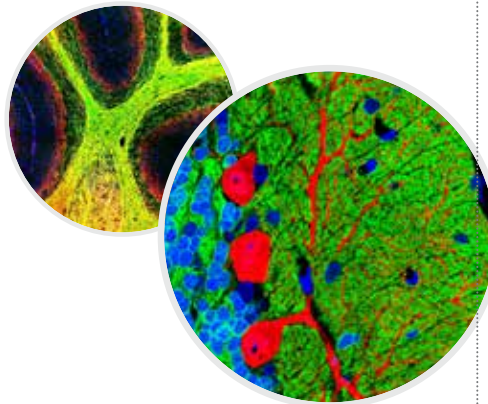
On the following pages, we proudly present a tiny sampling of these innovations borne from Gator ingenuity.



## Altavian

### Commercial drones

Altavian builds tactical and commercial drones with open architecture modular systems.



## EnCor Biotechnology

### Antibody reagents

Produces antibodies used to detect the presence of specific proteins for research and commercial uses.



## NanoPhotonica

### New generation electronic displays

Nanophotonica provides innovative nano-materials and fabrication techniques that enable electronic displays to have high resolution, pure, vivid colors and high efficiency at significantly reduced manufacturing cost using Quantum Dot Light Emitting Diodes (QLEDs). In development with collaboration from Lockheed Martin and Samsung.

## Banyan Biomarkers

### Blood test to aid in the evaluation of concussions

With support from the U.S. Department of Defense and researcher partners all over the world, Banyan Biomarkers makes a blood test to rule out the need for a computed tomography (CT) scan in adults who have a suspected head injury. In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration allowed for the marketing of the Banyan Brain Trauma Indicator®.



## OBMedical

### Wireless, external fetal monitoring equipment

OBMedical (now part of Philips fetal and maternal monitoring) developed wireless electronic maternal-fetal monitoring systems for use during labor and delivery to measure the status of the mother and unborn baby. The company’s first product, the LaborView Wireless Electrode System, is an external sensor system that measures contractions and heart rates of both mother and baby during labor and delivery.





## THE REBIRTH OF UF'S INNOVATION COMMUNITY

In 2018, UF united its four commercialization entities under one umbrella, moving research out of the labs and into people's lives.

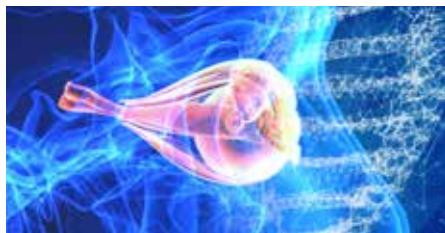
**UF Innovate:** the umbrella organization for UF's four entities below

- **Tech Licensing:** the "patent people" who help innovators protect their intellectual property and find licensees that can further develop or use those inventions
- **Sid Martin Biotech** and **The Hub:** UF's two business incubators that nurture startup companies with the resources and expertise they need to thrive
- **Ventures:** fuels growth in the number and quality of UF startup companies.

### Molekule

#### Air purifier

Uses nanotechnology at the molecular level to eliminate airborne allergens, mold, bacteria, viruses and volatile organic compounds.



### AGTC

#### Clinical stage gene therapy for genetic eye conditions

This company develops genetic therapies to treat patients with inherited eye conditions. The most advanced therapy programs are designed to restore visual function/sight to patients with rare blinding conditions.



### AxoGen

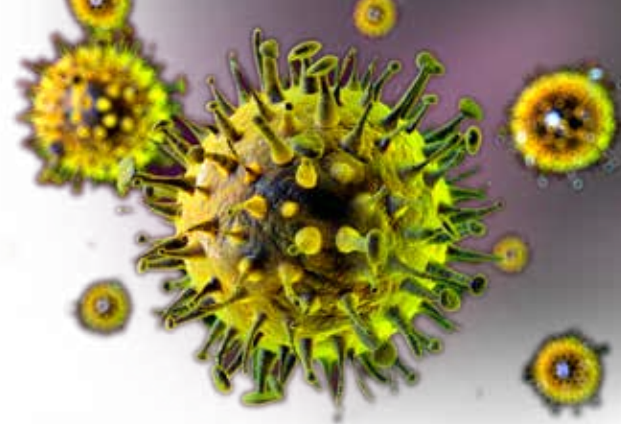
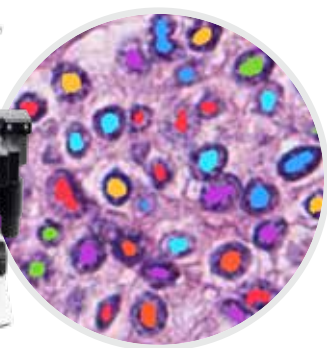
#### Nerve grafts for nerve regeneration and repair

Listed as AXGN on the stock exchange, this company is focused specifically on the science, development and commercialization of technologies for peripheral nerve regeneration and repair. This company aims to restore peripheral nerve function and quality of life to patients with physical damage or discontinuity to peripheral nerves by providing innovative, clinically proven and economically effective repair solutions for surgeons and health care providers.

### Cytoinformatics

#### Microscopic image analysis

Specializes in extracting insights from microscopic images. Combines computer vision technology with human expertise to provide robust, accurate and customizable image analysis.



### Brammer Bio

#### Viral vector manufacturer supporting gene therapy

Thermo Fisher Scientific recently acquired UF-spinoff Brammer Bio, which produces clinical and commercial viral vectors for gene and cell therapies.

### Enterade

#### Nutritional drink

A glucose-free health drink that provides select amino acids and electrolytes. It can manage side effects, such as diarrhea, brought on by treatments for cancer, dehydration, weight maintenance, malaise, fatigue and general GI symptoms.



### Florida Insect Control Group

#### Mosquito and flying insect trap, chips, stickers

Developed with UF's Urban Entomology Lab, these products control mosquitoes and are in the final phases of the U.S. EPA registration process.







## Shadow Health

*Healthcare simulation software allows students to practice on virtual patients*

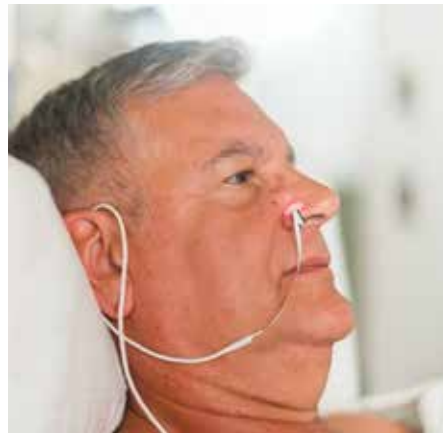
Provides medical educators and students conversation-based learning opportunities with a cast of virtual patients.



## Mako/Stryker

*Robotic-arm-assisted knee and hip replacement surgery*

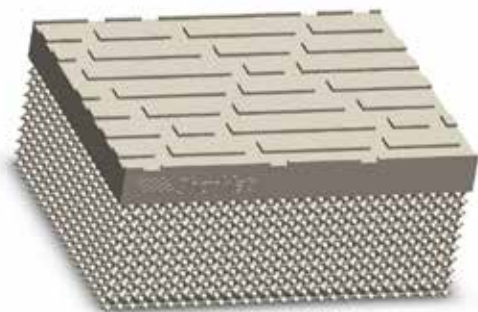
UF researchers Scott Banks and B.J. Fregly helped design knee implants, used in combination with MAKO Surgical's robot-assisted surgical arm, to enable more precise, customized surgery followed by an easier and faster recovery.



## OneVax

*Vaccine formulations to prevent or reverse Type 1 diabetes*

This company's formulas incorporate biomaterials and polymers for applications including multicomponent and time-release drug delivery.



## Xhale

*Assurance Nasal Alar Sensor*

This patient-monitoring technology measures blood oxygen levels and other physiological systems through a sensor attached to the nasal ala.

## SMART®

This breathalyzer-type device monitors drug medication adherence in real time. In other words, it verifies that the right person took the right dose of the right medication at the right time.



## Sharklet

*Sharkskin-inspired surface texture to inhibit bacterial growth*

The world's first technology to inhibit bacterial growth through surface pattern alone. The plastic surface is comprised of millions of microscopic features arranged in a distinct pattern (above), which inhibits bacteria from attaching, colonizing and forming biofilms. Sharklet contains no toxic additives or chemicals, uses no antibiotics or antimicrobials and is used in catheters, endotracheal tubes and wound dressings.



## Verigo (FreshCloud)

*Smart sensor pods that track conditions of produce or other perishables*

FreshCloud tech platform uses sensors, internet connectivity, data analytics, genomics and expertise to provide insight into the condition of produce every step of the way from harvest to retail shelves.





## Gila Therapeutics

*New treatments for obesity and related metabolic diseases*

Using a unique and recently discovered direct neural pathway between the tongue and brain, Gila is developing a medicine that — when applied to the tongue prior to meals — directly stimulates the brain’s satiety centers, inducing early fullness.



## Sinmat

*Semiconductor polishing*

This technology smooths semiconductor surfaces in a rapid, reliable and cost-effective way that ultimately maximizes performance and reduces the cost of devices, such as solar panels, consumer electronics and defense optical systems.



## ViewRay

*MRIDIAN*

World’s first MRI-guided radiation therapy system to image and treat cancer patients simultaneously.



## Prime III

*Accessible electronic voting*

A voting system that gives people with difficulty seeing, hearing, speaking, reading or other physical disabilities the ability to vote securely, privately and with dignity.

## Curtiss Healthcare

*New vaccines*

This biopharmaceutical company is developing a platform of new vaccines designed to help make our world a safer place through technologies that improve food quality and safety, as well as help treat and prevent serious infections in humans and animals.



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# Small Vans, Big Plans

Two Gators ditched the conventional trappings of success to discover the world, and themselves.

BY BRITTANY ROUILLE NEUMANN (BSADV 11)

**BEYOND BRUSHING OUR TEETH AND WASHING OUR FACES**, our daily routine is something that changes nearly every day. Some days we wake as the sun rises over a crystal-clear ocean, our eyes blinking slowly awake as waves lap up on the sparkling sands of a remote beach. Other days we slide open our door and cool mountain air rushes in to greet us. While looking at the view, our eyes are filled with colors and our hearts overflow with gratitude for this moment. We might spend days surrounded by more cows than people, but when fateful roads meet, we welcome our new neighbors with bonfires, stories or simply a warm good-morning



The hike Drew and I took to this spot above Lake Annecy, France, at the top of La Tournette was absolutely worth the effort.



hello. Then there are the less glamorous days, where, out of convenience or necessity, we awake in the parking lot of a shopping plaza or 24-hour gym.

Our mobile office/bedroom is equipped with mountain bikes, bathing suits, a swing, hiking, rock-climbing, kitesurfing and snorkel gear. Our shower is a brilliant, yet simple, utility tub contraption that my husband, Drew (BSA 10), built in a drawer. It stores under our futon and all of our utilities, including hot-water heater, are powered by solar.

While living in a 112-square-foot space with your significant other has its challenges, it is constantly teaching us the importance of communication, asking us to humbly grow into the best version of ourselves a little more each

day. For the past five years, together we have explored 39 states and 24 countries across three continents, all while living in a van. We never planned to live in a van after college, but we did plan to wholeheartedly discover and pursue what we love.

Our journey is unpredictable, but with our rolling home and our desire to make something truly good of this life, there's only one place we'll always end up, exactly where we want to be.

#### **A TRADITIONAL START**

Drew and I met in fall 2009 after being chosen from 400 students to serve as interns for the JanSport marketing team. Part of our internship, which really just felt like an incredible opportunity to have fun together, was to ride in JanSport's psychedelic 1967 Volkswagen bus during UF's Homecoming parade. I blew bubbles out of the sunroof while Drew danced with an inflatable alligator and threw candy into the crowd. Looking back, it's no wonder

At UF, Drew and I became JanSport marketing interns who rode the company's Gatorized van in the 2009 UF Homecoming parade



that 10 years later we'd happily choose to live life on the road.

It's also important to mention that two years before Drew and I met, I had been medically withdrawn from UF in order to seek in-patient treatment for my near-death struggle with an eating disorder. I wrestled to understand my purpose and place in this world. I was in







Savoring sunset scenes, like this one on Valentine's Day in Tafraoute, Morocco, took on a greater importance to us after we left our traditional jobs.

desperate need of freedom and joy, while being trapped in a body that just couldn't reach out for help. If it weren't for my courageous friends and the incredible staff at UF's campus infirmary who truly helped save my life, my adventure may have ended right then. When I returned to UF after a year of treatment, I decided that if I was going to live a recovered life, then I was going to have to pursue what truly made me come alive.

After graduating in 2011, Drew and I drove across the country to The Land of Dreams — Los Angeles — where we eventually found ourselves living the proverbial dream. We had a cozy little apartment in a great neighborhood with the best neighbors and jobs that paid us enough to enjoy weekends and put a little aside each month. Fast forward

three years, and we were beginning to feel stuck in an endless cycle of living for our weekends. It wasn't enough anymore: not enough freedom, not enough purpose, not enough creativity or joy.

Drew had been working to start an online business selling refurbished luxury watches. He realized that the future he was creating did not align with his truest values. Similarly, I felt overworked, undervalued and lost in the stressful mix of night shifts and monotonous desk-sitting that clouded my daily existence as the head of intake, aftercare and admissions at an eating disorder recovery center. We wondered why we couldn't just be grateful for the lives we were living. We felt numb, dead to the passion that we knew existed somewhere deep within. So, we set out to find it.

### **MAKING A MAP**

The original plan was to quit our jobs by April 2016 so we could teach English in Southeast Asia. We focused on downsizing and saving as much as we could. Then, our family suggested we first borrow their campervan to explore all that our own country had to offer. Simultaneously, Drew's online business began to fall apart and, after leaving my position at the recovery center, I was struggling to make any sort of job stick. In December 2014, a year and a half ahead of schedule, we put our remaining possessions in a tiny San Diego storage unit and set off for Florida to pick up the campervan in which we would roam 21,000 miles across the U.S. and Canada the next year.

Halfway through that road trip, Drew received an opportunity that





**We started our honeymoon by traveling across the United Kingdom in a converted box truck we named "Hector." We loved that periwinkle door.**

revolutionized our life on the road. A teleradiology company previously owned by his family was sold, restructured and in need of a new office manager. Duties could be performed remotely, making Drew the perfect fit for the role. His income, combined with our brand collaborations, other creative endeavors and YouTube channel proceeds are what have allowed us to pursue roads that stretch far across our home country and beyond.

### **FALLING INTO PLACE**

After that first year of vanlife we were hooked. All the challenges and changes that came along with living in a van were helping us grow into the people we always knew we were destined to become. The open road made it easy to feel happy and free, and there was no going back.

We married on Jan. 30, 2016, surrounded by family and friends on Islamorada Beach. Five days later, we flew to England to buy our first home, a used 18-foot converted Ford Transit van we dubbed "The Howeller." It carried us on our life-altering, two-and-a-half-year, 40,000-plus-mile, honeymoon-on-wheels through Europe and North Africa.

We planned our route according to our travel Visa limitations and the seasons: Central Europe in spring, Croatia in

summer, Morocco in winter, Norway and England the following summer, returning to Florida for winter and so on. Our incredible trek through Europe was marked by drastic changes. Each time we crossed into a new country, we experienced a new language, new customs, new cuisine, landscape and people. We spent nearly every day immersed in nature. At night we'd park next to the sea or on top of a peaceful mountain under a star-studded sky. We bathed in whatever body of water we came across and went days without looking in a mirror. We explored and made friends with strangers much different than us, finding endless fascination with each unique story. We owned less than we ever had before, yet life felt so full.

**We loved the sensation of these tidal flats underfoot near Mont St. Michel in France during the European leg of our adventure.**







### A WHOLE NEW CHAPTER

We returned to the U.S. this August, wondering how and where to move on with our lives. As exhausting and difficult as life on the road can be, the undeniable call to adventure continued to ring in our ears the moment we tried to settle down anywhere for too long. After living in four different vans, we decided the most natural thing for us to do was take on the challenge of building out our first ever custom-converted rolling home. It took us five months of hard work to complete, but this van isn't just our adventure mobile, it's our sanctuary, our freedom vessel into The Great Unknown. Providing us with just the right amount of comfort and space that we need to grow into all that this next chapter of life has in store.

We continue to find purpose in pursuing the path unknown, beauty in the ever-changing horizons and invigoration in the endless possibilities that await us each and every day. While we don't exactly know our destination, this journey continuously provides us with the freedom to pursue our passions and purpose, allowing us to encourage and light the way for others seeking their own.

It took some courage for us to stand on top of Kjeragbolten, a boulder deposited by a glacier 4,000 feet above Lysefjord, Norway. But it's a memory we'll never forget.



MrAndMrsAdventure.com  
Instagram.com/MrAndMrsAdventure



# 10 Tips for Finding the Life of Your Dreams

- 1 | Be deeply curious about your passions.** Care for them, practice them, believe in them. Realize that change is necessary, take action and create room for the possibility of greatness to take root.
- 2 | Surround yourself with “expanders,”** the people, books, experiences, stories that will inspire you to push beyond your comforts and reach out for more. Use your emotions as motivation and a guide to understanding some of your innermost desires.
- 3 | Be willing to do what it takes.** Dreams don't just happen. They take courage, vision and a lot of hard work. While our journey has been one of the most challenging experiences of our lives, it amplified the feelings of gratitude and joy that came along with realizing our dreams.
- 4 | Don't let fear of the unknown keep you from making the best decisions of your life.** Sometimes it can be as simple as saying, “yes!” Dare to say yes to what scares you; dare to believe in your ability to persevere.
- 5 | Let go of the need for more stuff.** Consciously choose to spend your money on the things and experiences that truly align with your values. Oftentimes a home-cooked meal can be just as satisfying, and perhaps even more meaningful, than one at an upscale restaurant.
- 6 | Figure out what your values are and honor them.** If you love animals, decide to educate yourself on the food and products you buy. You have huge power as a consumer. Choose to harness it in a way that allows you to be part of the change you wish to see.
- 7 | Practice being happy with what you already have.** Before you get out of bed in the morning, think of three things for which you are grateful. Making the decision to be grateful sets the tone for the rest of your day.
- 8 | Don't limit the ways in which you can be of value in this world.** Drew and I chose to pursue a path that adds a vibrancy to our existence. If we can find a way to bless others through what we share and create, that's what our version of living the dream is all about.
- 9 | Stop to recognize the magic around you:** the sound of birds singing, the glint of light through a tree branch. Remind yourself how precious our life is. It will reconnect you to the infinite source of power within yourself and others that is often just waiting to be ignited.
- 10 | Choose to be empowered by your dreams.** No matter where you are in life, there is always another level of joy and meaning waiting to be realized. What big step can you take right now to help you manifest your greatest dream?

It's the simple things along our journey that we try to cherish most, such as this breakfast by a lake in Millinocket, Maine.







THE MOLM FAMILY  
GATOR CAREER CLOSET



Knowing how to dress professionally is often a first step to launching a successful career.

*By Barbara Drake, Photography by Aaron Daye*



**W**hen entomology student Jacob Hornfeldt (3 CALS) came to Gainesville from Lake Worth, he didn't think he'd need to pack a suit and tie to study owlet moths.

Then, the Doris Duke Conservation Scholar decided to present his work at UF's annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Suddenly, he needed a headshot and presentation-worthy attire.

"I have a shirt and jacket ... but I need something better for a headshot," said Hornfeldt, who visited the Molm Family Gator Career Closet in a T-shirt and shorts.

He honed in on a fitted grey pinstripe jacket and a crisp blue Oxford shirt, paired with a striped silk tie. Then, wearing the borrowed duds but still clad in shorts, he stepped outside to have his headshot taken.

"This place has a lot of variety," said Hornfeldt, returning to the Closet a few minutes later. "I might come back to borrow something for the symposium."

Hornfeldt is one of hundreds of UF students each month who rely on the Molm Family Gator Career Closet, a free lending service that supplies "gently worn" business attire for job interviews, academic conferences, networking events and more.

Students with a valid UF ID can stop by the Career Closet boutique on the ground floor of the J. Wayne Reitz Union Monday through Thursday to browse its extensive selection of clothing, shoes, and accessories. Items can be borrowed for up to seven days.



Brandon Kol (2JM) gets some help from staff advisor Lauredan Official

Career Closet staff members are stylists and educators, says Ja'Net Glover, senior director of career services at the Career Connections Center. As well as explaining the difference between business casual, business professional and business formal, "they make suggestions and help students understand what can and can't be worn to certain events."

**1,000**  
Students served in the first six months after reopening

**2,000**  
Top-name items available, such as Hugo Boss, Loft and Kate Spade

**0 - 24**  
Women's sizes on hand; men are measured to ensure a great fit

**\$1,400**  
Average monthly dry cleaning expenses

## ADDRESSING A NEED

**2015** | A UF Student Government survey revealed many students lack access to suitable clothing for events, such as Career Showcase, the largest student career fair in the Southeast.

**2016** | Student Government and the Dean of Students Office opened the Gator Career Closet in Peabody Hall with just four racks of clothing, donated by faculty, staff and alumni.

**2017** | The Career Connections Center, formerly the Career Resource Center, began a 14-month, \$9.6 million expansion. High on the list of must-haves was a boutique-style space for the Career Closet in the J. Wayne Reitz Union, which the Molm family generously supported.

**2018** | The expanded Career Connections Center — offering mock interviews, career advice, free headshots, resume polishing and the Career Closet — was rededicated. UF President Kent Fuchs sported an orange-and-blue tie at the grand opening. "I borrowed the tie I'm wearing from the Molm Family Gator Career Closet," he said. "It's just one of 230 ties in their collection. Nice, huh?"



Second year biochemistry major David Joseph needed professional clothing to wear during his Preview photo session. He also plans to use that photo on his resume and some social media accounts.





Molm family (L to R): Hays, Sue and J.R.

## FAMILY TIES

UF students have structural engineer Sue dePaoli Molm (BSCE 81) and her sons Hays (1 Finance) and J.R. (4 Accounting) to thank for the revamped Career Closet, as their gift funded its expansion.

Sue Molm recalled a pivotal moment from her own college days when she heard about the Career Closet’s mission. As an undergrad preparing for a job interview, she realized she lacked anything appropriate to wear.

“That realization shook my confidence,” she recalls. Fortunately, a friend loaned her a suitable outfit, enabling Molm to relax and focus on her qualifications.

“To this day,” says Molm, “I remember what I wore, how I felt about my outfit, and what it was like walking in and out of the interview.”



Third year telecommunications major Madison Lange needed an outfit to wear for the Cicerones executive officer elections.

# FIVE THINGS

to avoid common personal presentation missteps



Junior health education behavior major Matthew Sandoval needed a tie to wear for an orientation photo.

## 1 | Focus on fit

Saggy, baggy clothes, too-short pants, teeny skirts and snug tops detract from a professional image.

## 2 | Forgo the flash

Focus on your accomplishments, not on your bling, your smoky eye shadow, funny tie or tatted triceps.

## 3 | Don’t forget your feet

Appropriate (and polished) footwear tells your future boss that you pay attention to the details.

## 4 | Pump that iron

The just-rolled-out-of-bed wrinkled look is out. Also, guys and ladies, make sure hair and nails are tidy.

## 5 | Substance over style

You may have great personal style, but for most interviews, neutral colors, simple and understated patterns and classic clothes set a more professional and less distracting tone.

## IF THE SHOE FITS

Think “Uber for fashion” — and it’s free. Older generations may attach a stigma to borrowing clothes, but that’s not how today’s teens and twentysomethings see it, says Dana McPherson at UF’s Career Connections Center. They’re practical and thrifty, and they embrace renting items — from rides to rooms — as a sustainable, eco-friendly way of meeting their needs. Why should dress clothes be any different? “This is a generation that uses Poshmark,” McPherson says.



# CLOSET CONFIDENTIAL



“It’s our way of [giving] students confidence ... at interviews. That frees their mental energy to concentrate on conveying their academic, involvement and personal accomplishments.”

*Sue dePaoli Molm (BSCE '81), whose family gift expanded the closet and its offerings*

“Most undergraduates don’t realize they need to bring professional clothes ... to school.”

*Jessica Phillipe, UF Career Closet operations specialist*



“Knowing how to tie a tie and choose correctly fitting, professional attire are transferable skills that students ... take with them.”

*Ja'Net Glover, senior director of UF Career Services*

“We coach them through the whole career-development process and make sure students feel as confident on the inside as they are on the outside.”

*Lauredan Official, Career Closet fashion advisor*



“I tried shopping at [the Oaks] Mall, but the stores didn’t have anything nice in my size for colder weather. It’s great to get exactly what I need — for free.”

*Savannah Gardner (1 CALS), who sought help at the closet before a class trip to Washington, D.C.*



## THE SHIRT OFF THEIR RACKS

The Career Closet is piloting Free Clothes on Free Fridays, a giving program for needy students. After consulting with a wardrobe advisor, students may select one item from the racks, for keeps.

“We’re beginning with pants and shirts because that’s what we have the most of,” says Jessica Phillipe, operations specialist for the Gator Career Closet, “but in time we’d like to offer suits and dresses. We need more donations to do that.”



## LEND A HAND

The Molm Family Gator Career Closet welcomes donations of clothing, shoes or cash. Some alumni have even made per-semester/year pledges to cover dry cleaning and item replacement costs.

### FOR MORE INFO

[CareerCenter@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:CareerCenter@ufsa.ufl.edu)

352-392-1601

<https://career.ufl.edu/closet>

### GIVE NOW

[www.ufl.edu/give/careercloset](http://www.ufl.edu/give/careercloset)

### GATOR CHALLENGE

UF Association of Black Alumni members are conducting a Molm Family Career Closet clothing drive competition. All Gators are welcome to contribute through any ABA chapter (Atlanta, Gainesville, Jacksonville, South Florida, Tampa Bay, Washington, D.C.) by Homecoming weekend. Results will be published in the winter issue of this magazine.





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# Year Round Gator Proud!

Plan your next weekend escape to Gainesville, Alachua County.

*Reconnect with your stomping grounds. Come for the familiar and stay for the unexpected!*



Photo courtesy of John Davison

## Music, Festivals, MUSEUMS & MORE

Gainesville, Alachua County offers the perfect blend of outdoor adventures and artsy vibes. Come see us and revisit your old favorites like the **Santa Fe Canoe Outpost** and **Ginnie Springs** or make new memories when you catch a live music show at one-of-a-kind venues like **Heartwood Soundstage** or the **Free Fridays Concert Series** at the downtown **Bo Diddley Plaza**.



CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL!  
#WhyILoveGNV

## CRAFT BREWED

Gainesville is home to a growing number of award-winning craft breweries like **Swamp Head Brewery** and **First Magnitude Brewing Co.** Sample flights of signature brews or fill a growler to take with you.



## FAMILY FRIENDLY

Fun and learning for kids of all ages await you at the **Florida Museum of Natural History**, the **Butterfly Rainforest**, the **Harn Museum of Art**, the **Cade Museum of Creativity and Invention** and more.

## FIND YOUR NATURE

Go bicycling, hiking or birding on almost 100 miles of trails at places like **Sweetwater Wetlands Park** and **Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park** and (re)discover your wildside!



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FIND RESTAURANTS & EVENTS AT  
[www.VisitGainesville.com](http://www.VisitGainesville.com)





# GATOR NATION

## 2 BITS, 4 BITS, 6 BITS, A DOLLAR

From Afghanistan to Orlando, Gators gave — and then gave some more — during Stand Up & Holler, UF’s inaugural giving day. Before 5 p.m. on Feb. 26, Gators had blown past the initial goal of 5,000 gifts. In the end, more than 11,000 gifts were made, all to benefit UF students and programs and help push UF into the Top 5 of all public universities nationwide.



“The response from alumni is proof that there is absolutely nothing the University of Florida and the Gator Nation cannot accomplish when we come together for a great cause,” said UF President Kent Fuchs. — NICOLE NEAL



### MOST GIFTS BY COLLEGE

**696**

College of Journalism and Communications

**582**

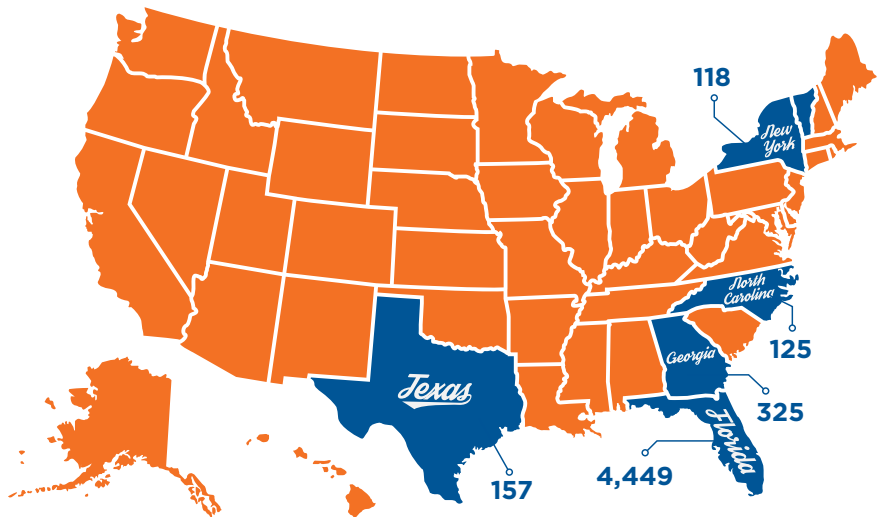
Warrington College of Business

**523**

Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

## TOP STATES FROM WHICH GATORS GAVE

(Gators from all 50 states participated)



### GATORS ABROAD PARTICIPATED FROM:

Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

#ALLFORTHEGATORS TWITTER IMPRESSIONS: **1.2 MILLION**

LINKEDIN, TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM VIDEO VIEWS: **ALMOST 207,000**





Former Gator football star James Bates (BSTel 97), left, served as emcee for the Stand Up & Holler event. Through Facebook Live and other social media channels, he delivered progress updates and joined other notable Gators in celebrations across campus, including this one on the Plaza of the Americas with UF head football coach Dan Mullen.



# Leveling Up

- Professional gamer income formula:
- Tournament prizes
- Twitch.tv subscriptions (interactive gaming platform)
- Online ad revenue
- Sponsorships

- Top pro gamer annual salary:

**\$1.1 MILLION**

- Average pro gamer annual salary:

**\$12,000 TO \$60,000**

- The 50 starting players who entered the 2018 North American League of Legends Championship Series were guaranteed a minimum salary of **\$75,000**. The average players earned about **\$320,000**.

SOURCES: ESportsEarnings.com, MoneyNation, Bloomberg, Entertainment Software Association

Jigglypuff  
Pokémon



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Professional video gamers — and Gators — Christopher Cantrell (left) and Juan DeBiedma

## WHEN KONTRUL MET HUNGRYBOX

**IN A SUBURBAN ORLANDO TOWNHOUSE,** a point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers and a formidable pink Pokémon met for the first time. They had a lot in common.

**Christopher Cantrell** (4JM) and **Juan DeBiedma** (BSCHE 15) are both professional video gamers who launched their careers while attending UF. In e-sports, they're known as KontruL and Hungrybox. KontruL (Cantrell) is part of an elite group of basketball gamers playing for actual NBA teams in the official NBA 2K League. Hungrybox (DeBiedma) plays the game Super Smash Bros. Melee for the international organization Team Liquid. Ranked as the best Melee player in the world, he's been winning championships for more than a decade, playing as the deceptively fierce Pokémon character Jigglypuff.

A quick aside for those wondering when “professional gamer” became a job title: The World Economic Forum estimates e-sports will soon be a billion-dollar business, with a global audience approaching 400 million. And for those wondering why anyone would watch someone else play video games, DeBiedma explains it this way: Crowds glued to TVs in sports bars grew up playing traditional sports, and they can't get enough of watching the best

athletes on the planet dominate those games. Many people feel much the same about video games, he says.

DeBiedma balanced college with a professional e-sports career and now schedules his tournaments around a full-time information-technology job. Cantrell, a journalism senior, played the inaugural season of the NBA 2K League for Orlando Magic Gaming while juggling on-campus classes in Gainesville. After being picked by Lakers Gaming in the league's expansion draft, he's taking online classes so he can train and play with the rest of the team in L.A. and New York City, where the league's games are held.

They met up in February, right before Cantrell left for L.A., to trade stories, compare experiences and play each other. The two talked about how to handle haters (just like traditional athletes, elite gamers are targets for social media trolls) and how their time at UF helped them develop the dedication and time management that helps them excel. They discussed their families' reactions to their unconventional career choice and how they keep improving as gamers. The veteran's No. 1 piece of advice to the ascending star? “Never be too prideful to ask for help.”

— ALISSON CLARK (BSJ 98, MAMC 16)



See their conversations at [youtube.com/UniversityofFlorida](https://youtube.com/UniversityofFlorida)





## ON A MISSION

**Anthony Adkins** (BSHED 08) traveled to Jamaica to help more than 750 residents who needed dental care. During his five-day trip, he was joined by 36 dental students and four dentists, who together extracted more than 650 teeth. In June, he opened Atlas Smiles in Plantation. “It has been a goal of mine since beginning my dental career to return home and provide my talents and services to the community that has given me so much.”



## JUDGE ELECTED BY PEERS

The Hon. **Donald Myers Jr.** (JD 89) is now chief judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, elected by that division’s judiciary. Myers began his career as a circuit court judge in 2011 after serving as a trial lawyer for more than 20 years. He has been working in Orange County’s Domestic Division and serving as the administrative judge for appeals to the circuit court.



### BRINGING JESSIE HOME

Set in rural north Florida and Clearwater, this story by **Dorothy Weik Smiljanich** (BA 69, MA 71) of Gainesville celebrates the bond between humans and their canine companions.



### A LAND REMEMBERED

This graphic novel published by **Andre Frattino** (MA 13) of Savannah, GA, is based on Patrick Smith’s “A Land Remembered” and earned a bronze medal from the 2018 Florida Book Awards.



### LIFE SHORT FLY NOW!

Three-time world-record-holding aviator Maj. **Brian “Brain” Kissinger** (BA 90) wrote this book (his fourth) that documents his real-life trials, including surviving brain cancer twice. Through his story, he shares tips on how to stay positive and survive in the worst of circumstances. He lives in Lebanon, IL.



### MORE THAN BONES

**Craig Singer** (BS 85) published this mystery novel. He lives in Baltimore where he is a physician and a self-described “passionate sports fan, incurable computer geek and avid traveler,” having visited seven continents.



### CRITICAL CARE OBSTETRICS

**Jeffrey Phelan** (BS 69) of Longwood published his sixth edition of this textbook about obstetrics. Nationally renowned for his work in perinatal medicine, he also edited another textbook on Cesarean deliveries. While a student at UF, Phelan credits one of his professors, Dr. Frank Maturo, with inspiring and mentoring him.

## GATORS AROUND THE WORLD



**Gary Tringas** (BSAC 85, MAC 87), **Ashley Tringas** (BS 18), **Gia Tringas** (BSAC 87, MAC 88) and **Robert Nusbaum** (BS 18) at the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.



**Scott Thompson** (BA 01) of Washington, D.C., chomps by the Great Barrier Reef off Queensland, Australia.



Lt. Col. **Colleen Cooper** (BSHSE 97) said, “Yes, that’s me and Herschel Walker doing the Gator chomp!” Cooper is the Medical Service Corps commander at the U.S. Army Health Clinic in Vilseck, Germany. Walker, a former University of Georgia Heisman Trophy winner, spoke at a forum she attended.



## HALL OF FAME INDUCTS AR/VR GURU

CO-FOUNDER OF THE COMPUTER GRAPHICS COMPANY NVIDIA, **Chris Malachowsky** (BSEE 80) is among the newest members of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, selected for inventing the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) that transformed the visual computing industry by creating a consumer-oriented 3-D graphics market. Under Malachowsky’s leadership NVIDIA has evolved the GPU into a computer brain that intersects virtual reality, high performance computing and artificial intelligence. He holds 35 U.S. patents.

“Chris embodies the attributes of a Hall of Fame inventor: creativity, leadership, integrity, professional excellence, and service to the local, state and global community,” said Wertheim College of Engineering Dean Cammy Abernathy. “He remains firmly committed to the success of his alma mater and has been particularly pivotal in helping the college craft a vision around the coming Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will help to position not only the university but the state of Florida as a leader in the creation of high-tech innovation and jobs.”

Hall of Fame nominees must have at least one U.S. patent and a connection to Florida.



## GATOR OFFERS STUDENTS IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

UF Innovation Academy (IA) students interested in construction management now have an immersion experience available through Amicon Management, a construction project management company in Miami, thanks to Amicon CEO **Adam Mopsick** (BSBA 93). This unique opportunity allows students to tour significant construction projects in Miami, meet local development leaders and network with Amicon leadership. To suggest a similar business partnership, contact Yesenia Sevilla at [ysevilla@aa.ufl.edu](mailto:ysevilla@aa.ufl.edu) or 352-294-2175. Learn more about IA at [InnovationAcademy.ufl.edu](http://InnovationAcademy.ufl.edu).

## GATORS DELIVER RELIEF

Palm Beach County attorneys **Eunice Tall Baros** (BSJ 67, MEd 71) and **Richard Hujber**, (BAPS 93, JD 96) went to a remote area in Guatemala in January to bring water filters, blankets and battery-operated lights to Osuna residents — descendants of Mayans — who were affected by the eruption of the Fuego Volcano. The Gators were part of a larger group organized by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. While in Guatemala, the delegation also met with congressional representatives, the country’s First Lady Patricia Marroquin and attended the opening of Casa Shalom (House of Peace), a trade school for teenage indigenous students.



AILEEN JOSEPHS



# SEEKING FRIENDS, FINDING FAMILY

GATOR CLUBS CREATE HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR UF ALUMNI

When **Suzy Schock** (BSAT 10) moved to Virginia on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., she felt like a fish out of water with no friends, relatives or network of any kind in the area.

**Sharyn Aufenanger** (BS 01), **Angie Saavedra** (BA 04, JD 07), **Nancy Kook** (BA 03, MA 04) and **Lucy Fort** (BSBA 07) had indirect connections when they moved to the area, but felt similarly. For all of them, their natural reaction was to seek fellow Gators. Suzy looked online and found her local Gator Club, the DC Gators. She jumped in by helping then-club president **Todd Thompson** (BA 01), who says one of his goals was to “bring together amazing Gators.”

“I went to game watches and anything I could attend,” said Suzy, an athletic trainer and Red Cross volunteer. She soon met Sharyn, Angie, Nancy and Lucy, who also found their ways into the club.

They didn’t know each other from their UF days, but they shared experiences and stories about student events, colleges, professors and local hangouts that only Gators would understand. As their friendship grew, they held a variety of DC Gators leadership positions, hung out together, vacationed together and helped each other through new jobs, new relationships, moving to other states, moving back and even getting married.

“The spirit of the ladies is what drew us together,” said Sharyn. “I felt we were growing and learning and experiencing challenges together.”

Talking via conference call on the heels of a girls’ weekend ski trip to West Virginia, the ladies said the Gator Club’s missions held them together, too. For instance, Lucy’s background in higher ed led her to serve on the scholarship committee with Sharyn. Together, their



(L to R) Sharyn Aufenanger, Angie Saavedra, Nancy Kook, Lucy Fort and (inset) Suzy Schock

efforts increased the number of local students who applied for club scholarships and the number of scholarships offered.

“It brings me a lot of joy to provide access for students attending college,” Lucy said. Sharyn agrees, adding: “We had the chance to give back — contribute to the

“THE FRIENDS I  
CHERISH THE MOST  
ARE THE ONES I  
FOUND THROUGH  
THE GATOR CLUB”

— Angie Saavedra (BA 04, JD 07)

club’s vision and make our area better, not just watch football.”

Nancy helped with club outreach, organizing charity work and intern scholarship drives for UF students who

spent summers in D.C. Angie coordinated volunteers, connecting their passions with club programs. Nancy later helped with club finances and Sharyn helped form a club running group.

“We all brought different skills” to build a robust community, said Suzy.

Today, Suzy lives in Sicily and misses the ladies’ regular meet-ups, but stays in touch and has invited the group for a visit. Meanwhile, she’s “spreading the Gator love” on her husband’s U.S. Navy base. She also signed up to be an official UF Alumni Association international contact for her region and learned there are about 50 other Gators in Italy.

Looking back, the ladies say joining their Gator Club was a great decision. “It’s really rewarding being able to work with people you really like ... and who become your friends,” Suzy said.

Angie agreed. “The friends I cherish the most are the ones I found through the Gator Club,” she said.



To find a Gator Club or international contact in your area, visit [www.ufalumni.ufl.edu](http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu) and click “Get Connected.”

## FIRST LADY OF DEFENSE ELECTED TO ELITE GROUP

**Linda Parker Hudson** (BSSE 72) of Charlotte, N.C., has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) for “a long and successful history of business leadership in the development and production of military systems.” The NAE cited Hudson for her passionate involvement in “mentoring and developing future engineering leaders.”

In its 55th year, NAE membership is among the highest professional distinctions an engineer can receive, with only 2,297 U.S. members and 272 foreign members (191 are women) in this group.

Hudson is best known for her past roles as president and CEO of BAE Systems Inc., where she was recognized by Fortune Magazine as one of the “50 Most Powerful Women in Business” and became known as “the first lady of defense.” She was the first female CEO in the defense industry and the first woman to lead a national security operation.

In 2014, Hudson retired from BAE and opened The Cardea Group, where she consults with top-level executives from around the globe on adaptive strategies, as well as organizational transitions and transformations. She also serves on numerous boards, including Bank of America, Ingersoll Rand and Southern Company.



Linda Hudson was the first woman CEO in the defense industry and the first woman to lead a national security operation.



Dakeyan Graham, King High School’s band director, is the 2019 Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year.

## TAMPA SCHOOLS HONOR “DR. DRE”

**Dakeyan Graham** (BMUSE 07, MM 09) of Tampa, whom students and colleagues call Dr. Dré, is Hillsborough County’s Teacher of the Year.

Not to be confused with the famous American rapper, Dr. Dre, this Gator is a musician and educator who strives to inspire and improve young lives through his love and passion for music.

“I have a Ph.D., and my middle name is Dré,” he said. “I tell everyone I’m the real Dr. Dré because I have the degree. The other guy is the fake. He should be paying me royalties.”

Graham has been the band director at C. Leon King High School in Tampa for 10 years. He was selected out of almost 25,000 educators to receive this award.

Graham credits several of his UF professors with influencing his music profession.

“I received one of the best music education experiences in my time at Florida,” Graham said. “Witnessing and experiencing the passion of my instructors was a major aspect of the preparation to go into the music education field. I try to emulate that same fire when I teach every day.”

Some of Graham’s students say they appreciate him most for being approachable and listening to their concerns and problems.

“What we have is a family,” Graham said. “A safe, loving place for our students to grow and learn; to be who they were meant to be — the next generation of world changers.”

“I TELL EVERYONE I’M THE REAL DR. DRE BECAUSE I HAVE THE DEGREE.”

— EMMA FRIEDMAN (1 ARTS)





(Above) Former Gator football standout James Bates spoke at the 40 Gators Under 40 event. (Below, left) Recipients of the awards. (Below, right) Awards were modeled after Bates' Century Tower painting.



**Berthude Albert** (BA 12, MA 14, PHD 16) is improving education in Haiti by training schoolteachers through the not-for-profit she started while in college.

Attorney **Bayardo Aleman** (BA 03, JD 06) represents unaccompanied immigrant children fleeing poverty and violence in Central America.

**Kendra Levine** (BSA 08) leads McDonald's Corp. climate action strategies to reduce greenhouse gas.

And plastic surgeon **Anup Patel** (BA 04, BS 04) co-founded Cents of Relief to empower victims of human trafficking.

These and 36 other alumni were recognized during UF's annual 40 Gators Under 40 celebration in April. Each alumnus received an award modeled after a Century Tower painting (left) by **James Bates** (BSTEL 97). The event recognizes outstanding young alumni who are going greater in their communities and professions.



See photos from the event and view the entire 40 Gators Under 40 alumni list at <https://connect.ufalumni.ufl.edu/events/ufaa-events/oya>



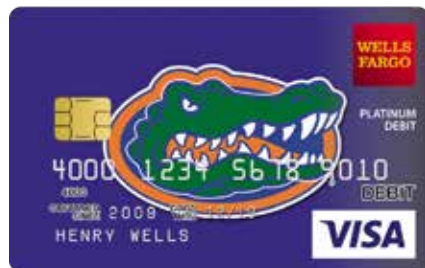
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COURTESY OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON



## GATORS WIN TOP J&J AWARD

Three Gators were honored by Johnson & Johnson for outstanding research and development. (From left) **Sam Popwell** (MS 09, PhD 12), **Pat Adams** (MBA 03) and **Thomas Maggio** (BSCHE 93) each received a Johnson Medal for their roles on the team that developed the ACUVUE OASYS 1-Day with HydraLuxe Technology contact lens. Adams is director of Product Quality Management, Maggio is principal scientist and Popwell is a staff scientist for Johnson & Johnson. They live in Jacksonville.



## CELEBRATING NEW GATORS

New alumni gathered April 12 to receive their class rings. Cynthia O'Connell, widow of former UF President Stephen O'Connell — whose ring design is still used today — presided over the event.

## YES, THEY DO

Lots of Gators attended the Fort Lauderdale wedding between **Giana Pacinelli Waldman** (BSTEL 12) and **Will Waldman** (BSADV 11, MSM 13), including officiant, **Glenn Waldman** (BA 80, JD 83) of Fort Lauderdale, and photographer, **Emily Harris** (BSJ 05) of Hollywood.



EMILY HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY



## GOTHAM GATOR CLUB®

These **Gotham Gator Club** members in New York sat down with Broadway and TV/film producer **Flody Suarez** (BSADV 84) this spring as part of a new networking series, **Gators Who Brunch**. This program connects alumni with successful Gators from different industries to hear about their time at UF and their career paths after graduation.



MATT PENDLETON

## GREAT GATORS HONORED

Before the Orange & Blue spring football scrimmage presented by Sunniland on April 13, UF's Legacy Society hosted about 150 alumni and friends at a pregame reception in Emerson Alumni Hall. Each of these generous Gators made a gift to UF in their wills or estate plans to strengthen UF and the Gator Nation. Learn about the financial advantages of these types of gifts at [www.giftplanning.ufl.edu](http://www.giftplanning.ufl.edu) or by calling 866-317-4143.

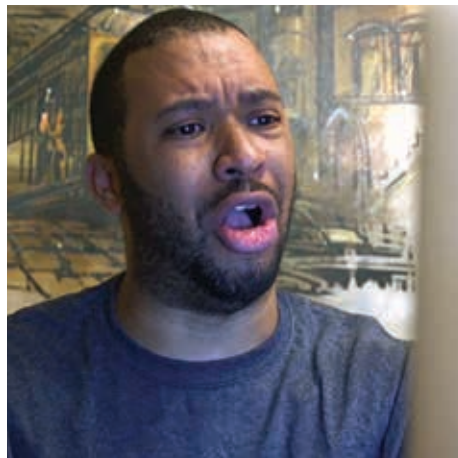


DON HAYES PHOTOGRAPHY

## PRESEASON FOOTBALL

Hundreds of Gators got their off-season football fix this spring when UF head football coach Dan Mullen visited Gator Clubs in West Palm Beach, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, Tampa, Orlando and (pictured here) Washington D.C.





SCOOTERMAGRUDER.COM



# THREE MINUTES WITH SCOOTER MAGRUDER

Cameron “Scooter” Magruder’s videos are some of the funniest on the Internet. But don’t call him a comedian. “I’m a content creator,” the Gator insists. “I’ve done stand-up — I have a solid four minutes. But what comedians do is way different.”

Maybe so, but nevertheless, Magruder (BSTEL 11) and his hilarious videos are social media darlings. Best known for his sports fan reaction takes and top 100 lists, such as “Worst Pick Up Lines” and “Things Not to Say During a Job Interview,” his self-produced videos and work for the likes of AT&T, Taco Bell, the NFL, NASCAR, Pepsi and American Airlines tickle funny bones across the World Wide Web. Magruder’s “Things Not to Tell Women Over 40” was even featured on NBC’s Today Show.

**Q: What’s it like to be a social media celeb?**

**A:** I’m more like a local hero. What’s awesome ... is I can still go to the store and blend in naturally, whereas a celebrity, everything they do is tracked and monitored. I can live a normal life and have the best of both worlds.

**Q: Why are your videos so popular?**

**A:** The sports genre, especially the college sports genre, is very untapped ... without many content creators. There’s a huge desire, and there aren’t that many creators who can turn content around as fast as I can — I can have a reaction video out the next day when big news breaks and it’s high quality, the audio is good and everything is in focus. That right there really helps me with my audience.

**Q: Do people ever ask, ‘What were you thinking?’**

**A:** No, it’s more like: ‘This guy’s corny; this is cheesy; you make the same type of videos all the time.’ I don’t have to respond to any trolls because the community will take care of it. Luckily for me, it’s been a while since I’ve had an inaccurate video. If your video is inaccurate you’re going to get bashed.

**Q: Your expressions in the videos are classic. Are they natural or practiced?**

**A:** Definitely natural and I definitely do get in trouble with my girlfriend because of it. She’ll say, ‘Stop looking at me like that.’ I don’t even realize I’m making a crazy face.

**Q: Have you ever thought about doing a sitcom or feature film?**

**A:** I’ve had some ideas that could translate into a half-hour sitcom, but right now I’m not really focused on that. The way I see it is things are moving more toward online as opposed to television. TV is always going to be there, but if I can get ahead now in the digital space that’s more crucial to me at this moment.

**Q: Were you this funny as a kid?**

**A:** I was always the class clown in school. I liked making people laugh. In high school I was on the school news team and got kicked off because I’d say outrageous and outlandish things. I even did my own Scooter Magruder show. I’ve always been who I am.

**Q: What are your best UF memories?**

**A:** College isn’t just one moment, it’s the whole experience: all the football games, eating at Gator Dining, mainly all the friendships. But I do remember playing a pickup basketball at the Rec Center against some of the football players. We beat them, and I hit the game-winning 3 to beat [Gator tight end] Jordan Reed and all the football players.

**Q: Can you do this when you’re 65?**

**A:** Absolutely, and if you’ve been doing it your whole life you’re going to have that audience that’s been following you since 40 years prior.

**Q: What should people know about you?**

**A:** I’m a Christian. That’s why you don’t hear any cussing in my videos. They should also know I’m actually a Gator fan and that I’m actually a Dallas Cowboys fan. I get asked that so many times.

**Q: Favorite Scooter Magruder moment?**

**A:** I was doing a campaign for AT&T and they sent me to the college national championship game when it was Alabama and Clemson. Clemson threw the winning touchdown right toward the side of the stadium where we were sitting as time ran out, and it was mayhem. It was crazy, and I was there — live, in person. It was probably the best game I’ll see in my life. It was wild. Alabama fans were demoralized. Clemson fans were ecstatic. Here I am, just a third party, watching one of the best championship games ever.

**Q: Advice for other Gators who, like you, have unique career aspirations?**

**A:** If you are reading this right now and you’re in school at UF, start doing whatever it is you want to be doing right now. If you fail, you can always rebound. It’s easier to rebound when you’re younger.

— DAVID FINNERTY



ScooterMagruder.com

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**TOM ARNOLD (BSBA '80, JD '83, DBA '17)**  
*Global Head of Real Estate at Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)*

### MORE INFORMATION

→ [warrington.ufl.edu/DBA](http://warrington.ufl.edu/DBA)  
or contact Angie at: [angie.woodham@warrington.ufl.edu](mailto:angie.woodham@warrington.ufl.edu)

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# MINIMUM WAGES, MAXIMUM MEMORIES

We asked, you answered. From watermelon picker to Winnie-the-Pooh, Gators recall those weird and wonderful first jobs that built muscle, bank accounts and character.

## SWEET SLICES, SWEAT AND SORE MUSCLES

The most defining job in my youth was two summers spent picking watermelons on my uncle's farm. The work process was simple, but the work itself was incredibly hard. For 10 hours a day in the heat of a North Florida summer, I'd walk down the rows, pick the 20-pound watermelons and throw them to people on a trailer. Once the trailer was full, the watermelons were loaded onto an 18-wheeler and we'd begin again. It was exhausting. By comparison, I now work a mentally challenging desk job. It's not easy; some days are quite tough and it can get complicated, but I try to be mindful not to say that I "work hard." I work diligently to the best of my abilities, but sitting in my air-conditioned office at home isn't hard when compared to those two summers. That work on the farm shaped my work ethic. It gave me confidence in my ability to keep going when things are challenging, and taught me that I can do pretty much any type of work I set my mind to do.

**Patrick Sheffield** (BSBA 09) is a project administrator at Zaengle web engineering firm in Tallahassee

## STEP RIGHT UP!

My first job was working at a mini doughnut stand in the local flea market as dishwasher/fryer/cashier/etc. I enjoyed the thrill of getting people's attention in the crowded market and closing the sale, which eventually led me to a career in marketing.

**Katie Duguid England** (BA 14, BSJ 14, MA 19) is a strategic services manager at Rakuten Marketing in Tampa

## FAST FOOD FLASHBACKS

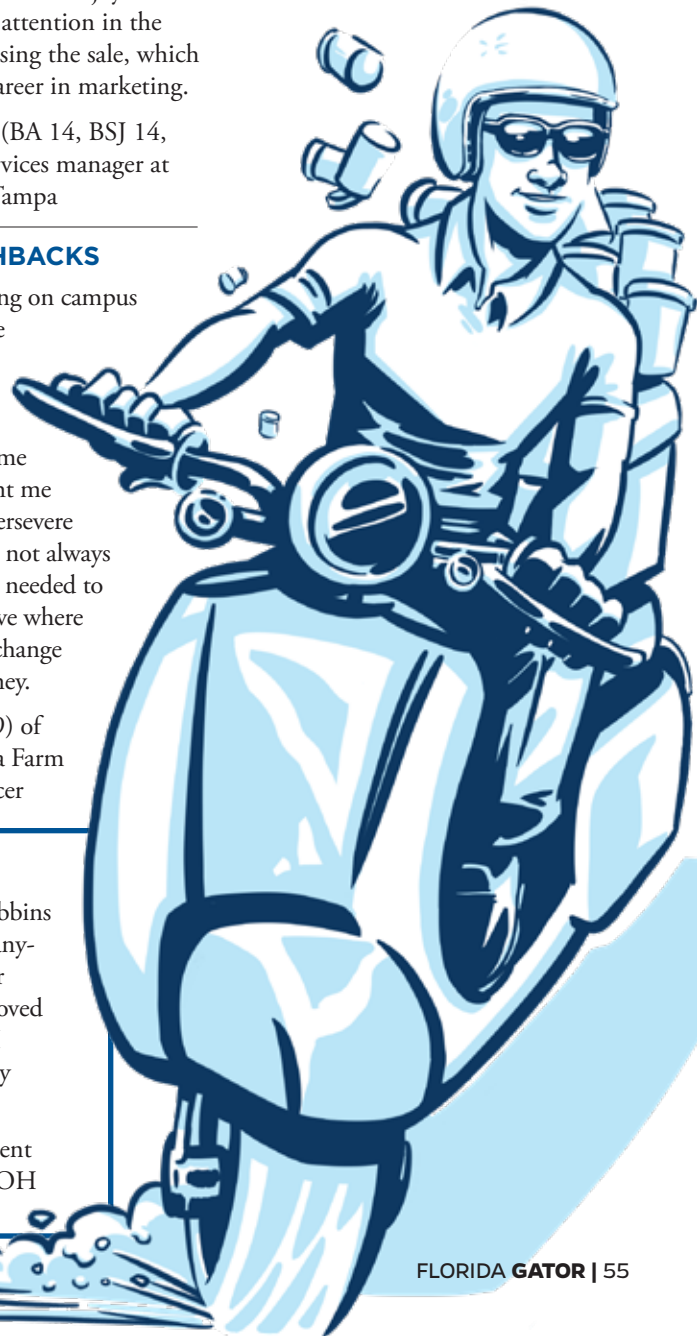
I worked for Gator Dining on campus during and after my time at Santa Fe and UF. I started at Einstein Bros Bagels, then Quizno's and Subway. I've seen some things. It definitely taught me how to work hard and persevere through a job you might not always enjoy because it's what is needed to support your family. I love where I am now and wouldn't change anything about my journey.

**Joseph Trainor** (BSA 09) of High Springs is a Florida Farm Bureau senior claim officer

## ICE CREAM DREAMS

In 1986, I had one of the best jobs I have ever had. I was a Baskin-Robbins ice cream delivery man. I got to fly around UF's campus in the company-provided moped. Imagine in the mid-'80s being able to call from your dorm or apartment and get a pint of ice cream delivered for \$2.40. I loved it because I often got \$5 and was told to keep the change. I was rich. I learned customer service, logistics and the shortest point between every dorm on campus.

**Monte Hartranft** (BSBA 88) is the general manager and vice president of sales for New Horizons Computer Learning Center in Columbus, OH



## FOOTWEAR FASHION

I sold shoes, working for my father's modest shoe business. I carried his bags of shoes everywhere from department stores, mom-and-pop shops and high-end shoe stores across the country. I followed our salesman around, named Jack Rogers, who taught me about marketing and sales.

Then, Jackie Kennedy was photographed by media while she was wearing a pair of our sandals. When I took over the family business, I focused our resources on that style of sandal she helped make popular. We went from one shoemaker to a production of 100,000. The rest is history.

**Joel Rabin** (BDES 59) is president of the Jack Rogers shoe company in Miami



## ECLECTIC EDUCATION

My early jobs include sorting medical supplies at a hospital, picking up food for the homeless, selling life insurance and cable, taking phone calls and underwriting home-improvement loans. I am now in a job where I have to pitch my ideas, write effectively and improvise solutions to business problems.

**Vincent Gagliano** (BS 11) is a commercial banker for M&T Bank in Buffalo, NY

## WHAT'LL YA HAVE?

The job that defined me most during my youth was being a bartender at the world famous Purple Porpoise in Gainesville. It taught me how to work under pressure and how to build a customer-centric business.

**Shannon O'Connell Marques** (BSISE 02, MBA 15) is vice president of healthcare and life sciences at Salesforce in Dallas

## BLOCKS, CARS, BIKES AND GULLIBLE TOURISTS

During summers in high school until my junior year at UF, I worked for Kelsey Construction in Orlando as a laborer in the 90-degree, 90-percent humidity heat.

Over time I learned to lay block and made more money. But it was motivation to get my degree! To get to work I bought a 1962 Dodge Valiant for \$50. It had a dashboard-mounted, push-button transmission and everything went well until the "R" button fell off. It could only go forward and I had to be careful where I parked.

During Christmas breaks I assembled bicycles. Putting together 10-speeds paid more because they were more complicated, so we all tried to pull those tickets. After

my junior year at UF, I'd made enough money so I took a pay cut for a more appealing job driving antique cars on Main Street USA at Disney World. It was a lot of fun because the tourists were gullible and would believe almost everything told to them, including the lie that the one-ton Belgian working horses pulling the trolleys were robots, and other such tall tales.

My post-college career began with the Orlando Sentinel newspaper, then Florida Trend magazine. I retired to Fernandina Beach in 2016 with my wife, Julie Sewell Quigley (BSJ 81), who is a retired real estate professional. We raised our family in Scarsdale, NY. These days, she enjoys quilting and I fish on local waters.

**Frank Quigley** (BSADV 75) is a retired senior media executive who was president of Source Media Securities Group

## HARD WORK AND LEGACIES

My grandfather, **Edgar Felson** (JD 30), had some interesting early jobs. He played on the Gator basketball team in the 1920s and worked his way through college hauling heavy wood railroad ties from trucks to the tracks. He also sold ad-laden desk blotters. When he graduated from UF, he became a successful lawyer and judge, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather in Jacksonville. He left a legacy of kindness which might have been the best gift he could have given us.

**Art Fyvolent** (75-79) is CEO of IDEAS4 in Tampa

## MOWING WHEN OTHERS WON'T

When I was 10 years old, I mowed my next-door neighbor's lawn for \$20 per weekend. The neighbor provided the mower and the gas, and I provided the

pushing.

Even though the neighbor had three older sons, I showed the initiative to ask for the job and they said yes. This experience showed me the value of asking for what you want in a friendly, straightforward way, and then once you get your foot in the door, the value of consistently performing.

**Tom Donegan** (BA 92, MBA, 12) is general counsel for Raymond James & Associates in St. Petersburg

## BURGERS OVER BALL GAMES

I used to work concessions with my fraternity Sigma Beta Rho during the 2008 championship season, which means I didn't actually see a single Gator game in my time at UF (2008-2013). Of course it was not by choice! I also worked at Nationwide Insurance as a commercial claims technical clerk while in grad school to pay for tuition.

**Nirav Nikunj Patel** (BA 11, MS 13) is a geospatial data scientist and project manager for the Defense Innovation Unit, a part of the U.S. Department of Defense, in Mountain View, CA

## DO-SI-DOS AND DERRICKS

Two jobs shaped me. First, I sold cookies door-to-door. My parents didn't feel right soliciting coworkers or those my dad supervised (I agree). Dad also said it was good for me to work for it. My mom walked with me and even drove me to other neighborhoods. I remember being elated when I sold over 20 boxes to ONE household: a boy answered the door with his hungry teenage brothers. I learned the pride of being a top performer and earning a badge all on my own. I learned how to



sell an idea and product, handle rejection and deliver orders.

Also, in college I interned one summer as an oil field roustabout in West Texas. I learned to respect those who'd worked in the industry for decades. They didn't have college degrees, but had so much knowledge and worked together like family. They were always willing to help and teach others. I learned what I liked and didn't like to do, and have since been a huge proponent of internships or co-ops.

**Amy Lee** (BSME 96) of Lutz is director of business continuity strategy for FloridaMakes and lives in Lutz

### PUMPING IDEAS

In college, I worked at Gainesville Health and Fitness, which inspired the initial vision for my company. I developed my idea while I worked on my PhD in digital health behavior at UF. I also scrubbed dorm room doorknobs as part of my duties as a Navy ROTC freshman.

**Edward J. Buckley III** (BSPR 07, MPH 11, PhD 15) is chairman and CEO of Peerfit in Tampa

### BRAUN AND BRAINS

My first company job was for a local greenhouse and landscaping firm loading 50-pound bags of rocks, topsoil and manure into the back of vehicles. I learned hard work, got sunburns and aching

muscles, but also realized I wanted more, and to get more I needed to use my mind. My experience at UF set me up for success as an officer in the U.S. Navy, helped me earn an MBA from Northwestern and become a successful investment banker.

**Shawn Keenan** (BABA 98) is a Capstone Headwaters director in mergers and acquisitions in Tampa

### IS THIS ON?

During my senior year at UF I was a stand-up comedian and the host of the Holiday Inn's comedy nights. I got paid \$50 a night and free drinks from the bartender to warm up the crowd and introduce the other comedians. It was a great gig, and it taught me a lot about stage presence. Now I have zero fear of public speaking!

**Jesse Eisner** (BABA 01) is COO and co-owner of Spotlight Energy, LLC in Orlando

### ONE AMAZING MAN

My grandfather, **Tiger Holmes** (BSBA 48), died Nov. 28 at age 97. He waited tables at the student union while attending UF. He was also the swim team captain and president of his 1949 class, although his graduation was delayed due to serving in the Army Air Corps as an A-26 pilot. He served one year during WWII and two years

during the Korean War, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. After his service, he started Holmes Lumber Co. in 1954 by parking cars at night, supplemented by Air Guard pay, a small loan from his father-in-law and one used truck. He was the driver, salesman and accountant. Years later, his company became one of the most successful lumber businesses in the Southeast. What an amazing man!

**Dana Ten Hulzen** is a healthcare administrator from Jacksonville Beach and the parent of a freshman Gator

### REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

My first real job was in Chicago working for a non-profit's magazine. Having worked for UF alumni publications during my student days, it was great to continue writing profiles on like-minded people who come together to do positive things for their communities. That passion for good storytelling continues with my current line of work: an actor and writer in Los Angeles who is very available right now.

**Jamison Webb** (BSJ 07) is an alum of The Second City theater and has appeared on NBC and FX

### MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

In high school, I was Winnie the Pooh for Walt Disney World in the opening day parade, Oct. 1, 1971. I continued that job in summers throughout high school and in college, until I couldn't make the schedule work anymore as a medical student. We'd portray our characters in the park for 30-minute sets — alternating with a double — because it was hot! The days were long.

It was a better job than I realized at the time because I got to see first-hand Disney's fervent commitment to getting every detail right. That impacted everyone and everything — and helped exceed expectations of guests. Disney calls it "over managing the details," but to me it demonstrated the value of truly putting guests first.

I still carry that with me today, doing whatever we can to meet and exceed the expectations of our patients and students. Just like Disney, we see many people every day from all walks of life. Some come to us happy, some start out grumpy and many don't feel as well as they would like. But our role is to meet them as they are, manage the details of their experience and exceed their expectations.

**Dr. Marvin Dewar** (JD 88) is UF's College of Medicine senior associate dean and CEO for UF Health Physicians in Gainesville



## AT HOME **BACK STAGE**

Just five years after he crossed UF's commencement stage, **Kevin Murphy** (BSSPM 14) now plays a pivotal role in concerts starring the world's most famous on-stage entertainers. As senior events manager at Tulsa, Oklahoma's BOK



ERIC SCHLEICHER

Center, Murphy serves as the main event day point of contact for tours featuring the likes of Justin Timberlake and Elton John.

The job can require long hours, but it comes with perks. For instance, one time "I was in my office and heard a U2 song. It wasn't the radio. It was U2 rehearsing down the hall," Murphy said.

Like the luminaries who headline at BOK Center, Murphy's success did not happen overnight. He worked for years at various sports and entertainment venues before joining the BOK staff. In 2018, he was honored by the International Association of Venue Managers Foundation as one of its "30 under 30."

Murphy, a sports management major, credits the College of Health and Human Performance for preparing him for his current role. "Thanks to internships they arranged, I learned how to work with different people and personalities," he said.

— **GREG FORBES SIEGMAN**

## **GATOR LEADS NATIONAL MAGAZINE**



DAVID MCKINNEY/UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

**Pam Fine** (BSJ 79) is now the eighth editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a magazine that covers college and university news and issues.

Her previous roles include journalism professor and chair for news, leadership and community at the University of Kansas, managing editor of *The Indianapolis Star* and *IndyStar.com*, vice president and

managing editor of the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis and assistant managing editor at the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

Fine was president of the American Society of News Editors in 2016-17 and a Pulitzer Prize juror four times.



## **GATOR WINS AT SUNDANCE**

**Jacqueline Olive** (MAMC 07) won the 2019 Sundance Film Festival's U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency for her film "Always in Season."

The documentary centers on the case of Lennon Lacy, an African American teen who was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, N.C., in 2014. Local officials quickly ruled Lacy's death a suicide, but his mother believes he was lynched. The documentary examines the lingering impacts of more than a century of lynching African-Americans.

In addition to the film, Olive produced a virtual reality (VR) project that immerses viewers in the experience of a lynch mob to shine a light on the circumstances and choices that brought victims, witnesses and lynchers together.

"People like to feel there is a wall between us and history, that there is somehow this information that's contained and separate from us," Olive said. "But there is a very direct correlation between what's happened historically and what's going on now around racial violence."

Olive is developing another VR project using 360-degree video and computer-generated imagery to show what it's like for women of color to move through racialized public spaces.



[www.AlwaysInSeasonFilm.com](http://www.AlwaysInSeasonFilm.com)



## **AROUND THE WORLD**

After visiting Santiago, Chile, **Robert C. Dowd** (BSBA 81) and his wife **Maribeth Krupczak** visited Easter Island and posed for this photo.





## GETTING THE SCOOP

Former college roommates **Jack Breed** (BSBS 82) and **Jim Dielschneider** (BSBA 81) enjoyed hearing the latest about Gator football recruits from Zach Abolverdi of the Gainesville Sun at a **Titletown Gator Club®** meeting. The club hosts monthly events.

 [www.TitletownGC.com](http://www.TitletownGC.com)



## HBC RECEIVES WARM WELCOME OUT WEST

**Alamo City Gator Club®** members gave a big welcome to the Orlando Apollos football team and its coach, **Steve Spurrier** (BSPE 81), in San Antonio when the team arrived for a preseason practice.



## DIGITAL ARTISTS TAP GATOR FOR VIDEO

**Nick Diaz** (BA 17) had never worked on a music video. Neither had his two collaborators.

After publicizing some of his digital artwork on Instagram during the #Inktober2018 challenge, the UF Digital Worlds Institute alumnus' work caught the eyes of digital artists Simone "Funi" Fougner and Felix Stief.

The two artists pulled Diaz onto their team to create an animated digital music video for electronic music producers

and DJs deadmau5 (pronounced "dead mouse") and Mr. Bill.

At press time, the video, called "deadmau5 & Mr. Bill — 10.8" had more than 230,000 YouTube views, and renowned digital artist Goro Fujita and VR tech company Oculus tweeted the video.

"I can speak for the team when I say that we still haven't come down from that high," Diaz said, adding that the team is contemplating a new project.

— JADE BLOSHUK (BFA 19)



UF PHOTOGRAPHY

## "NEW FACE" OF ENGINEERING

**Madeley Arriola Guerrero** (BSCE 17) is one of 10 professionals nationwide selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers to the 2019 New Face of Civil Engineering program, which recognizes notable achievements of young, distinguished civil engineers.

Growing up in Nicaragua, Guerrero decided at age 16 to pursue engineering so she could improve living conditions in communities like hers.

"I lived in a country where infrastructure and global water systems are messed up and disorganized," she said. "We had so much flooding and people would lose their houses."

At age 17 while on a scholarship program in Norway, she received a grant to build a well and drain in Granada, Nicaragua. Later, during her final year at UF, her honors thesis recommended a solution to the storm water flooding issues at Matherly Hall and its surrounding area on campus.

Today, she is an associate engineer at Chen Moore and Associates in West Palm Beach working on storm water modeling, system design and construction. Her goal has remained the same: to improve water systems in developing countries.

— REBA HERNANDEZ

# GATORS BAND TOGETHER TO END FOOD INSECURITY IN HAITI

**IN ADDITION TO THESE GATORS' EFFORTS, UF BOASTS MANY PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT HAITI. FOR INSTANCE:**

- » UF's Haiti Research Lab in Gressier has supported work in health, nutrition, education and economic development for more than 35 years
- » Since 1979, the Florida Museum of Natural History has collaborated with three Haitian organizations in the excavation and study of two important archaeology sites
- » The College of Medicine conducts numerous annual service learning trips to Haiti, including one for third-year OB/GYN residents

**F**our Gators' efforts to help their fellow countrymen in the western hemisphere's poorest country have attracted federal funding and international attention.

**Lemâne Delva** (PhD 12), **Joubert Fayette** (MS 10, PhD 14), **Boaz Anglade** (PhD 15) and **Andrew Tarter** (MA 10, PhD 15) met at UF. Born in different parts of Haiti, the Gators now work for UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and its program that aims to end Haiti's food insecurity.

Known by its French name, "Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole" (AREA, or Support to Agricultural Research and Development), the \$13.7 million project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development with the aim of building the capacity of Haiti's faculty, students, farmers and others to produce more food.

Each of the Gators contributes a unique skillset to the project: food science and human nutrition (Delva), plant pathology (Fayette), food and resource economics (Anglade) and anthropology (Tarter).

Delva directs the project's research efforts and leads its postharvest loss management and food safety program from AREA's office in Haiti. He gives credit for his success to his mother — "the smartest person I know," he says. She is a single mom with little schooling who farmed and worked odd jobs to provide for her six children. She also emphasized the importance of a good education. For Delva that meant earning a bachelor's from Haiti's state agricultural college and a master's in Taiwan before coming to UF.

"Our legacy of this project is to build capacity and create more educated Haitians for a better future," says Delva, who frequently returns to campus to coordinate with AREA's principal investigator, Rose Koenig (PhD 97), other UF faculty and 25 Haitian students who are earning master's degrees at UF and Louisiana State University through AREA. Most of these students are graduating this year, and all are



UF/IFAS: TYLER JONES (MAMC 17)

**From left: Lemâne Delva (PhD 12), AREA project's director of research, and Joubert Fayette (MS 10, PhD 14), a leader of the project's plant pathology research program.**

committed to return to Haiti to serve as teachers, researchers and other agricultural professionals.

Anglade and Tarter, who separately moved to the U.S. as children, now live in the Washington, D.C., area where they conduct research and teach university courses. They examine the best ways to transfer knowledge and skills to farmers to improve crop yields and financial success. Tarter recently authored an extensive study for the World Bank on Haiti's charcoal industry, a primary cooking fuel for Haitian households that has been blamed for the deforestation of the island. Anglade is collaborating with UF faculty to report on AREA's research findings.

Fayette is one of seven children whose parents worked as teachers and in various agricultural jobs. He earned a bachelor's in plant pathology in Costa Rica before coming to UF. Now, he helps lead AREA's research program in Gainesville that teaches Haitians to diagnose and manage plant diseases. The soft-spoken scholar speaks passionately about his work.

"Haiti is part of me," Fayette says. "I'm here but my thoughts are all about Haiti."

— CHARLES BOISSEAU

All 25 Haitian master's students at UF plan to return to their home country to serve as teachers, researchers and ag professionals.



# WELCOME MEMBERS!



## MEET FELLOW GATOR AND LIFE MEMBER BRUNO RAMOS

“Becoming a UF Alumni Association life member allows me to give back and support UF as a thank you. UF provided me with an exceptional education that helped me establish a solid foundation for my professional and entrepreneurial growth and success.”

— **Bruno Ramos** (BDES 82, MARCH 85) of Miami is the principal-in-charge for BEA International Group, an interdisciplinary design, architecture, engineering and interior design firm



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**1,554** OF YOUR **FELLOW GATORS BECAME MEMBERS** OF THE UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SINCE MARCH.

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Members receive a plethora of benefits, but more importantly, their dues support career networking programs, scholarships and other support for 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](http://ufalumni.ufl.edu) or calling 352-392-1905.



# FINISH

## AUSTIN LANGWORTHY

# LINE



BY PAT DOOLEY (BSJ 76)

There was never much of a question what **Austin Langworthy** (3ALS) was born to do. Even as a kid when he was balancing motocross races with baseball, even when he gave football a shot in recreation leagues, he knew that baseball had its hooks in him.

"It's something that flowed in me for sure," he says.

All of those days out at the park in Williston hitting old balls until the seams started to come loose. All of those late nights at the high school stadium, ripping line drives after practice until his hands looked like those of a construction worker.

All of those hours he spent in the batting cage his father, Jason Sr., installed in their Morristown home, a sleepy village so quiet you could hear the consistent crack of the bat when little Austin went to work.

There was something about baseball, about perfecting a swing that can never be perfect that drew him to the sport and away from the others.

"And I was pretty good at it," he said. Langworthy was a lock for Kevin O'Sullivan and his recruiting machine that sweeps up the best talent in the state. A young Gator fan who saw dozens of games and was winning multiple state baseball championships just 20 miles from campus, no brainer.

"There was nowhere else I could go," Langworthy said.

But it wasn't always that way.

Back in the old days, Langworthy was a 'Nole.

"My whole family was mostly FSU fans," Langworthy said.

But his brother, Jason, graduated from Florida. Austin was 9 years old, still easily impressionable.

"When he graduated from Florida, I kinda flipped," Langworthy said.

So much so that when Langworthy made his debut at McKethan Stadium in 2017 as a freshman, the family was





decked out in Gator clothes and going full throat when he came to the plate.

“My whole family, they’re Florida fans now,” Langworthy said. “Maybe my dad, when they play football, is still rooting for the Seminoles.”

That family has had plenty to cheer about as Gators.

When a baseball player comes to a school, he can only dream of the moments Langworthy has had so far.

Let’s see, freshman year, be part of the first Florida team to ever win the College World Series. Check.

Sophomore year, hit a walk off homer in the Super Regional to send Florida to Omaha. Double check.

“It’s been a surreal experience,” he said. “I’ve done almost everything that every college baseball player dreams of doing. Played in the Cape (Cod) League two summers, too. There’s nothing like that.”

Oh, yeah, and there were those two state championships he won at Williston High. It’s been a wonderful life with more to come. But he didn’t fall into it like a trust fund brat. This took a lot of work.

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“I’ve done almost everything that every college baseball player dreams of doing.”

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His father, Jason Sr., hauls sod for a living, but every day when he would finish work he’d drag his son to the recreation field to hit. Soon, it was the son dragging the father. On the rare occasions when Langworthy gets a break from school and college baseball, he still makes his dad meet him at the field to throw him pitches.

“He’d come home from work and we’d go right out there to just hit for a couple of hours,” Langworthy said.

Even a diehard Seminole like Jason Sr. was thrilled when his son chose Florida because he knew Austin wanted to be a

Gator. And it certainly has worked out geographically.

“My parents and my uncle have hardly missed a game unless they were extremely sick or off somewhere,” he said. “That’s been great.”

It’s also been great for Florida coach Kevin O’Sullivan, who has been so confident in Langworthy’s swing he’s played him through slumps knowing it would eventually come around.

“I’ve seen Austin hit since he was a freshman in high school, so he’s got a lot of natural ability,” O’Sullivan said this spring. “I think he’s one of the purest hitters on the team. He’s a steady player. He’s very cerebral.”

O’Sullivan has also been able to use Langworthy on the mound when needed. Had Florida not finished off LSU in two games in the College World Series final, Langworthy would have started the national title game.

Part-time pitcher.

Full-time hitter.

“I love to hit,” he said.

And hit he shall.

