

GATOR

FLORIDA

SPRING 2019



THE BRAIN'S A-TEAM

WHEN IT COMES TO BRAIN RESEARCH,
UF SCIENTISTS ARE AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME **PAGE 18**

EVEN THE BRAIN, OUR MOST POWERFUL ORGAN, NEEDS BENEFACTORS.

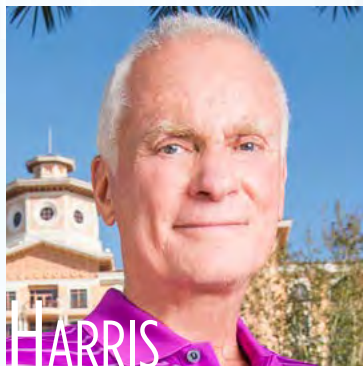
This fall, UF officially designated “the brain” a universitywide area of focus. While scientists in all corners of campus have been researching and treating Parkinson’s disease, dystonia, ALS, brain tumors, spinal cord injuries, addiction and other brain-related issues for decades, with many UF services and scientists ranked among the top in their fields, this new initiative prioritizes research and collaboration. It creates opportunities for greater funding and expands UF’s partnerships with other institutes and universities.

The Gators below are the champions who have invested millions in UF’s brain research and clinical work. Their vision, dedication to helping others and faith in UF’s faculty, staff and students means thousands of patients and families have hope for greater health, and future generations will inherit the possibility of cures for some of the most dreaded and debilitating diseases. [Learn how their gifts are advancing neuroscience on pages 18-23.](#)



**BARBARA
WELLS**

Renowned for her dedication to improving lives through the arts, health care, human services and education, she directed a \$10 million gift in 2011 to name UF’s Department of Neurosurgery for her grandmother, Lillian. This infusion and her other gifts catapulted the capabilities and stature of that team’s research and treatment enterprise. In 2018, she led the Lillian S. Wells Foundation to invest another \$10 million in UF Health’s brain programs.



**HARRIS
ROSEN**

He is widely heralded for his investments in underserved communities. From pre-K programs to college scholarships, his efforts transform lives by vastly expanding opportunities available to families in two of Orlando’s struggling neighborhoods. Rosen also created robust college and healthcare programs for his employees. This year, he contributed \$12 million toward UF’s brain tumor research program. He is Florida’s largest independent hotelier.



**HARRY T.
MANGURIAN JR.
FOUNDATION**

A developer in Florida and New York, Mangurian owned the NBA’s Boston Celtics and was a longtime horse racing leader with a farm in Ocala. Although he and his wife, Dorothy, passed away, his foundation supports UF Health research. It invested \$3 million in UF Health’s study of leukemia and Lewy body dementia, which is the second most common degenerative dementia after Alzheimer’s disease.



**LAUREN & LEE
FIXEL**

While Lee Fixel is best known for his success with technology start-up investments, he and his wife, Lauren (BSJ 07), are also generous philanthropists. This year they gave \$20 million to expand UF Health’s neurological research and treatment efforts. Named for Lee’s father who graduated from UF in 1975, the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF will focus on degenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s, ALS, dystonia, Alzheimer’s and concussions.

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ON THE COVER

A new UF initiative prioritizes brain research and treatment, which includes the work of UF scientists (L to R) Duane Mitchell, Todd Golde, Laura Ranum and Michael Okun. Find out why these experts are part of UF’s A-team on [page 18](#). Photo by Aaron Daye

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UFAA BOARD NEWS SPRING EVENTS CELEBRATE GATORS AND STRENGTHEN UF

FRIENDS: The Gator Nation continues to inspire me and others this spring with its creativity, innovation and hard work.

For instance, the winners who were honored at the fifth annual Gator100 event in February deservedly received a standing ovation for their efforts. Gator100 honors the world’s fastest-growing Gator-owned or Gator-led businesses. From construction and exercise companies to veterinary hospice and nanny businesses, these Gator leaders are improving their communities and fueling the economy. See if one of these winners is in your area on page 35.

This spring, UF also admitted the students who will make up UF’s class of 2023. In partnership with UF’s Office of Admissions, our alumni board will host several regional events for these students. I hope you can join us, so we can continue the tradition of welcoming these new Gators together.

In February, your UF Alumni Association held its spring Board of Directors’ meeting in UF’s renovated Career Connections Center at the Reitz Union. Board members shared ideas for strengthening The Gator Nation, celebrated UF’s No. 8 rank on U.S. News & World Report’s list of best public universities nationwide and renewed our commitment to support UF’s quest to reach the top five on this list.

You have an opportunity to aid UF’s quest for the top five, as well, because one of the considerations in this ranking is our “alumni participation rate.” This number reflects how many alumni make a gift to their university in a given year. To this end, UF hosted its first-ever day of giving on Feb. 26, aptly called “Stand Up and Holler.” Of course, you and your fellow Gators did not disappoint. Thank you for your spirit and your generosity that made this event a rousing success.

If you missed Stand Up and Holler, you can still make a gift that will count toward UF’s alumni participation rate this year. The size of your gift does not matter. Rather, the number of alumni who participates does. Visit www.uff.ufl.edu/give/givingday19 and contribute any amount to the UF program, college or scholarship that means the most to you. I hope you will spread the word to your fellow Gators and encourage them to play a direct role as we strive for the top five.

Thank you for all you do to inspire others and strengthen The Gator Nation.

Brian D. Burgoon (BA 94, JD 97)
President, UF Alumni Association

Conversation with Kent Fuchs

FELLOW GATORS,
AS INCOMING FRESHMAN
AND THEIR FAMILIES THINK
AHEAD TO NEXT FALL, MANY
MAY WONDER HOW THEY
WILL AFFORD THE COSTS
OF COLLEGE.

I myself faced that challenge. When I was an undergraduate, my parents weren’t able to contribute to my college expenses, so I washed dishes in the dining hall and spent summers as a construction laborer in South Miami. I also took out today’s equivalent of \$40,000 in student loans. Many UF students and thousands of alumni took a similar path.

This experience of learning to manage money, time, work and studies was an important part of my growing up. Also, in my experience, loans can be beneficial when they help students graduate quickly.

However, even though UF’s tuition is among the lowest in the nation, for some students the cost of going to college is simply too high.

Helping these students is a priority for UF. We invest nearly \$16 million in financial aid for undergraduates each year — and we are committed to doing even more.



Our Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program, launched in 2006, provides funding for students who are Florida residents, the first generation in their families to attend college and whose families earn \$40,000 or less each year. We’ve awarded Machen scholarships to about 300 new students each year.

We’re expanding other financial assistance programs. In fall 2016 we began offering micro grants to assist students in unexpected financial crises. In 2018, we launched a program to provide funds for startup expenses to first-generation, low-income students.

While UF’s investment in financial aid is substantial, and while our tuition is among the lowest in the nation, I believe the state, the nation and UF all need to increase aid.

At the state level, I am grateful that lawmakers have more than doubled Florida Student Assistance Grant funding for students with financial need in the past two years, increasing UF’s annual allocation to more than \$14 million.

Florida’s signature financial aid program is the Bright Futures Scholarship. Last year, 93 percent of UF’s in-state freshmen received this scholarship. I thank our lawmakers for expanding their investment and allowing students to use the scholarship to attend summer terms.

Bright Futures awards are based on academic merit, which I support. However, I would like to see the amount of the awards based on the financial needs of



students and families. A student with financial need would receive more than a student with no financial need. I believe Bright Futures scholarships should be merit-based and need-aware.

On the federal level, the Pell Grant recently began providing financial aid for some summer classes. This is great, and I hope lawmakers continue to expand this program.

For UF’s part, we’re focused on growing our endowment to increase financial aid for students in need. Our goal for UF’s Go Greater campaign is to add \$100 million to the financial aid endowment. I thank all alumni and friends whose generosity is helping us get there.

In just a few months, we will welcome the Class of 2023. With your help, and with more attention to need-based financial aid from all quarters, we will make UF a university that all students can afford.

Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.
President
University of Florida



TWO NEW HOMES

Construction on the new Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita) and Institute of Black Culture (IBC) facilities began in late September. Replacing their dilapidated predecessors at 1510 and 1504 West University Avenue, the new \$9.9 million facilities will serve as a hub for student and cultural activities.

“Our goal was to design welcoming facilities that represent the cultural fabric of today’s students, while celebrating their past, present, and future,” said **Mike Lindsey** (BDES 02, March 05), designer for the project’s architectural and engineering firm, DLR Group.

The grand openings are slated for the fall.

ARTIST RENDERING BY DLR GROUP

People who have suffered from a certain type of vision loss since childhood may be able to regain their eyesight

GENE TREATMENT FOR BLINDNESS WINS FDA APPROVAL

The treatment, known as Luxturna, uses a gene delivery process that originated at UF with Dr. William Hauswirth, a College of Medicine ophthalmology professor.

The therapy has already successfully reversed blindness in Lancelot, a Briard dog born with the sight-robbing genetic defect called Leber congenital amaurosis type two, or LCA 2. An estimated 4,000 people in the United States and Europe have LCA 2, which affects specialized light- and color-detecting cells in the back of the eye.

The basis of Luxturna – a treatment technique which uses a harmless virus to deliver a functional copy of a crucial, sight-saving gene to the retina – was devised by Hauswirth. A subsequent collaboration as well as other research work at the University of Pennsylvania brought Luxturna to the public.

Hauswirth continues his 25-year journey developing gene therapies that restore or maintain vision. He also made the AAV vectors for five other gene therapies to treat different genetic forms of blindness. Those therapies have restored vision in animal patients and are currently undergoing human clinical trials.



LANCELOT, BRIARD BREED



UF | IFAS

A BUG YOU'LL LOVE: THESE BEETLES CAN HELP YOU FIGHT AGAINST YOUR BACKYARD AIR POTATO INVASION

UF scientists found a solution for Floridians whose property and vegetation has been overtaken by the invasive air potato vine. In conjunction with state and federal agencies, UF/IFAS provides free air potato leaf beetles, the natural enemy to air potato plants, to anyone who registers by April. For details, visit bcrcl.ifas.ufl.edu/AirPotatoBiologicalControl.shtml



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVEST CROO ROBOTICS

ROBO-CROPS

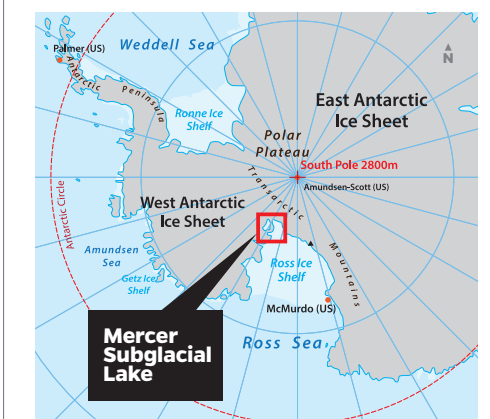
Gator Bob Pitzer (BSME 97) and Gary Wishnatzki are working on a robotic strawberry picker that could change the ag industry. Pitzer is a robotics expert and co-founder of Harvest CROO Robotics. Wishnatzki is a third-generation owner of Wish Farms in Plant City. While their prototype is the first since they joined forces in 2013, the pair aim to have a fully operating system by 2020. Pitzer says each robot will be able to pick 8 acres in a day, and will still require humans to work with it.

A POLAR-OPPOSITE HOLIDAY



PHOTO: BILLY COLLINS, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

While many people were enjoying their holiday break in December, these two Gators were taking scientific samples at Mercer Subglacial Lake in Antarctica. Microbiology and cell science associate professor **Brent Christner** (left) and life sciences doctoral candidate **Christina Davis** traveled 600 miles inland to capture the water samples from the liquid lake beneath Antarctic's ice sheet. Their work is part of a multi-institution project funded by the National Science Foundation.



HEARD IN GATORVILLE

"My love for [UF] has remained undiminished since 1953 when I first set eyes on her as a second grader."



— STEPHEN STILLS

Rock-and-roll legend and UF's December commencement speaker, a day after receiving an honorary doctorate. He sang "So Begins the Task" for the new grads.



George Starke

"We will never be able to erase that injustice. It lives with us."

— LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW DEAN LAURA ROSENBERY

About the state's pre-1958 practice of refusing to admit African-American students. In October, UF celebrated its 60th anniversary desegregation with guest of honor **George Starke**, UF's first African-American student.

NUMBERS OF NOTE

NO. 7

Gainesville’s rank on AARP’s top 10 “best college towns for retirement” list, thanks to UF’s “dizzying array of attractions,” some of the most “electrifying games in the NCAA” and free courses through UF’s Institute for Learning in Retirement.

\$16M

Amount UF will receive from the National Cancer Institute over the next five years to launch and lead a cancer health equity center in which other universities will participate.

209

New UF professors hired this fall as part of Provost Joe Glover’s effort to add 500 new faculty and reach a 16-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio by 2020. UF’s largest college, Liberal Arts and Sciences, added the most faculty so far: 66.

37.9%

Admissions application increase over the past five years, according to a UF report. The jump correlates with UF’s rise in national rankings.



GETTY IMAGES

Rhesus macaque monkeys

INVASIVE THREATS NOW INCLUDE WILD MONKEYS

UF WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION SCIENTIST STEVE JOHNSON, WHOSE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON WAYS TO CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES, SAYS THE THREAT OF WILD MONKEY POPULATIONS IN FLORIDA IS NO JOKE.

A quarter of the community of rhesus macaques in Silver Springs State Park near Ocala carry a herpes virus that can be deadly to humans. Since the troop of monkeys is growing rapidly – from the 175 documented three years ago to the expected 350 by 2022 – Johnson and his lead doctoral student, Dr. Jane Anderson, says it’s a matter of time before the animals are in contact with their human neighbors.

UF’s research, recently published in The Journal of Wildlife Management, tested possible ways to control the expanding population, including removing or sterilizing some adult females.

“The population is just going to grow, and the frequency of the problems is going to grow,” Johnson said. If monkeys get out of the park, they’re even more likely to interact with people, which poses further dangers. UF’s research focused on the troop of monkeys inside the park and did not include another troop living nearby.

Anderson and Johnson are advising Florida Department of Environmental Protection officials, who will ultimately decide how and whether to control the troop’s prolific reproduction. In the meantime, the scientists offer some simple advice: Look at the macaques, but don’t feed them and try to avoid them.

HEARD IN GATORVILLE

“If we can do this miracle in Florida, and I think we can, this will be the best thing I’ve ever done in my life.”



— JAMES PATTERSON

World’s best-selling author who is working with UF experts to drastically improve reading proficiency among middle school students in Florida.



— HEATHER GIBSON

UF sociologist who pioneered the study of women travelers and offers tips for women who travel alone on www.news.ufl.edu.

“Pushing back against social boundaries is where women get empowerment.”

UF EARNS TOP 5 RANKS

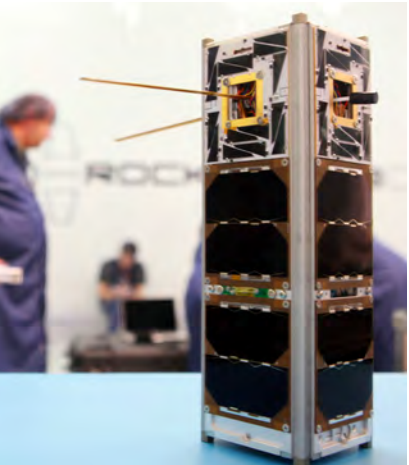
UF ONLINE, THE UNIVERSITY’S HUB FOR WEB-BASED BACHELOR’S DEGREES, IS TIED FOR THE NO. 5 SPOT IN THE COUNTRY on U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 best online programs list (tied with Penn State World Campus and the University of Illinois at Chicago).

UF Online (ufonline.ufl.edu) offers 20 undergraduate degrees and plans to add 10 more in coming semesters. Beyond those programs, UF offers 88 certificate tracks as well as 77 master’s and nine doctorate degree programs online through the UF Distance Education office (distance.ufl.edu).

UF graduate online programs that also earned top individual U.S. News & World Report ranks include:

- Education, tied for No. 1
- MBA at No. 4
- Engineering, tied for No. 16

For Gators who work at Walt Disney Co., Walmart and Discover Financial services, earning an online bachelor’s degree is easier than ever. These companies partner with UF to allow employees to study tuition free, provided they meet UF admissions qualifications.



NASA

A GO FOR LAUNCH

NASA LAUNCHED A UF SATELLITE INTO ORBIT ON DEC. 16 CALLED CHOMPTT (cubesat handling of multisystem precision time transfer). The satellite’s goal is to improve synchronizing systems, such as GPS, through laser technology.

UF will spend the next 12 months studying optical pulses from ground to space, calculating the time discrepancies. The UF team hopes to improve GPS accuracy from six meters to six centimeters.

“We’ve done the analysis, we’ve done the work,” said UF mechanical and aerospace engineering Associate Professor John Conklin. “We already are successful, our clocks are working in orbit. That’s a first. No one has ever demonstrated an atomic clock operating successfully on such a small satellite as ours.”



SARAH CAREY / UF VETERINARY MEDICINE

UF veterinarian Simon Swift examines Zoey, a 12-year-old Maltese, with owner, Janette Jordan of Oviedo.

DOGS BENEFIT FROM UF’S NEW PARTNERSHIP

UF’S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE WILL LAUNCH AN OPEN-HEART SURGERY PROGRAM FOR DOGS LATER THIS YEAR, becoming the only fully functional program of its kind in the United States and the only one to offer the complex procedure known as mitral valve repair.

The program will be a collaboration between UF and renowned veterinary cardiologist Dr. Masami Uechi of the JASMINE Veterinary Cardiovascular Medical Center in Yokohama, Japan.

The partnership means Uechi and his team will come to UF multiple times this year to train UF cardiologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, critical care specialists and other key staff to perform mitral valve repair surgery, with

the ultimate goal of UF being able to operate and maintain the program independently.

Mitral valve repair surgery treats a condition known as degenerative mitral valve disease, or endocardiosis. This disease has a genetic component and is responsible for about 75 percent of all canine cardiac issues.

Although any dog breed can develop degenerative mitral valve disease, small-breed dogs such as cavalier King Charles spaniels, dachshunds, Malteses, poodles and chihuahuas are most commonly affected. Older dogs are more likely to have the disease, but some breeds get this disease at a younger age. For example, 50 percent of cavaliers have this disease by age 5 or 6, said Dr. Simon Swift.

16

UF professors who are National Academy of Inventors fellows. Two of those, **Christine Schmidt** (researches biomaterials for nerve regeneration) and **Philip Koehler** (investigates new pest management technologies), were inducted Dec. 11.

13

Patents held by professor **Frank Bova**, the 2018 American Association for Physicists in Medicine lifetime achievement award winner. He most recently patented a robotic imaging platform that improves navigation capabilities in computer-assisted neurosurgeries. Bova co-founded UF’s radiosurgery program and leads the radiosurgery/biology lab in UF’s McKnight Brain Institute.

2

UF faculty inducted this year into the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science. **Robert Ferl** grows plants on the International Space Station and in Antarctica to determine how to best feed future colonists. **Jeffrey Jones** battles various crop diseases, such as citrus canker and bacterial spot, in Florida and worldwide.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UF MACHINE INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY

5 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Won by UF's autonomous vehicles at the Maritime RobotX Challenge since 2012. Eleven UF engineering students spent finals week (Dec. 8-15) competing in the 2018 event in Oahu, Hawaii. Their NaviGator autonomous boat was tied for first place going into the final round and finished fourth overall out of 16 international teams. See photos and videos from the competition at the Machine Intelligence Lab site, www.mil.ufl.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARRINGTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

38 IN CHINA

Shanghai was the destination for 38 Warrington College of Business students who traveled to meet regional leaders, including (bottom, right) **Jane Sun** (BSAcc 92), COO of Ctrip, Asia's largest online travel agency. Read about one student's revelations from the trip online by searching "Sarah Beth Hoover, UF, China."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE BORDEN

ADVENTURES IN BIODIVERSITY: STUDENT MAKES DISCOVERY

On a research trip to Kenya, **UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation doctoral student Jesse Borden** discovered a new gecko species. Since amphibians and reptiles, such as the chameleon pictured above, are strong bioindicators of a healthy environment, Borden is studying how these animals are responding to habitat destruction and climate change. See the gecko and watch Borden swing through the forest canopy and describe his trip in a short video at www.news.ufl.edu (search "Borden").

JUST SPIT: NEW UF TEST SPEEDS MALARIA TESTING

A team of UF researchers released a new, easy-to-use saliva test to screen for the parasite that causes malaria. Led by infectious disease researcher **Rhoel Dingsan**, the scientists hope their method could replace the more-invasive and sometimes less-accurate blood tests. They also hope their new development will speed efforts to diagnose, treat and even eradicate the disease, which kills a child every two minutes.

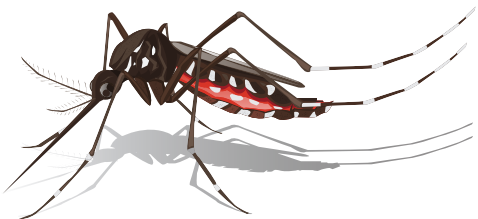
219 MILLION

Malaria cases worldwide, 2017

435,000

Malaria deaths worldwide, 2017

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



SEEN IN GATORVILLE



BRIANNE LEHAN



BRIANNE LEHAN



BRIANNE LEHAN



PHOTO CREDIT



BRIANNE LEHAN

1. The Homecoming parade involved lots of chomps.
2. Seven UF projects won cash prizes after competing with more than 60 proposals that address real-world problems locally as part of the Gainesville Research Award Showcase, held in Emerson Alumni Hall.
3. Walk the Moon band performs at Gator Growl.
4. College of Education Dean Glenn Good welcomes seven of the 12 new faculty he hired this year.
5. UF's Health Hut staff recently celebrated the program's 20th anniversary of reinforcing positive habits among students, such as sustainable eating habits.



36 YEARS

Length of **John Wright's** teaching career at UF's College of Journalism and Communications before he retired in December. During that time, he also served as dean (2007-12), in four other administrative roles and won the college's Teacher of the Year title three times.



BRAD McLENNY/THE GAINESVILLE SUN

8 ACRES

Size of the **new lime rock reef** UF/IFAS faculty designed along the historic Lone Cabbage reef in the Gulf of Mexico. The nearly three linear miles of reef is expected to revive Florida's oyster population. UF project funding is connected with the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement.



AARON DAYE

FACULTY FOCUS: **AUGUSTO SOLEDADE**

BRINGING CULTURES, PEOPLE TOGETHER

DANCE PROFESSOR IS ONE OF 11 NEW **COLLEGE OF THE ARTS** FACULTY**Q: What led you to become a professor of dance?**

A: When I began my studies, I got to know the work of Garth Fagan, who choreographed the “Lion King” Broadway play. He blends multiple dance idioms: Jamaican dance, ballet, modern and post-modern. This was exactly the path I wanted to pursue. I call my work Afro-fusion, as it combines African Diasporic, Afro-Brazilian, contemporary and other dance styles to create a specific aesthetic. I teach it and research it.

Q: What do people not understand about your work?

A: The biggest challenge with a fused form is the audience’s familiarity with the cultures I’m combining within modern dance. They may not be able to identify specific moves that connect with Afro-Brazilian people. So, they may see my work as plain contemporary dance. Also, people often overlook the level of research needed to create contemporary dance and help this field evolve. Some see dance as pure entertainment, rather than an art or an art form.

Q: What do you want to accomplish at UF?

A: I believe the nature of a university is to promote interactions beyond university walls ... to share

knowledge with the public and confront people with different ways of thinking. I’d like to help create a bridge between UF and people in other parts of the world whose communities include strong African Diasporic cultural elements. The African culture has already spread throughout parts of the Caribbean and Europe. As this continues throughout the rest of world, specifically through the arts, my fusion of dance idioms can help bring us all together.

Q: What can your students learn from you?

A: I want to help them make their own discoveries. UF is a place where a lot of discoveries are made. Students aren’t here to imitate what I do. Rather, they can learn from what I have to offer and create their own dance.

Q: Would you like to collaborate with other faculty?

A: I’m already collaborating with Welson Tremura in the school of music, a Brazilian music specialist. And, I’m co-directing a study abroad program with Rosana Resende from the Center for Latin American Studies. That’s the great thing about UF: it’s easy to find other scholars with common interests.

141/203

Days conjoined twin sisters **Jesi** (141) and **Remi** (203) **Pitre** of Apopka, FL, spent at UF Health Shands Hospital after their birth on May 16 and successful separation surgery on July 26.

**2,574**

Parking tickets forgiven in 2018 through UF’s new amnesty program whereby donations of non-perishable food are made to UF’s **Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry** in-lieu of a fine. About 13,397 pounds of food were collected, then given to students who are food-insecure.

150 MIN.

Moderate **exercise** recommended **each week** for adults. A UF study in January found that low levels of physical activity can put adults with healthy weights at the same risk for heart disease as adults who are overweight. It also says **30 percent** of normal weight U.S. adults are at **increased risk of heart attack or stroke**. These adults had more belly fat and shortness of breath upon exertion. Learn more at **UFHealth.org** (search “sedentary lifestyle cancels out heart benefits”).

Nationally recognized for problem-solving care.

The only hospital ranked in north central Florida.



UF Health Shands Hospital and UF Health Shands Children's Hospital were ranked in 12 specialties, according to U.S. News & World Report. This designation reflects our unwavering dedication to providing high-quality care for patients and validates the work of physicians, scientists, nurses and staff at UF Health.



Learn how we solve problems every day at ProblemSolvingCare.org.



WHEN ARTIST MINNA FERNALD DONATED MORE THAN 320 WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS of Florida wildflowers to UF in 1942, she unknowingly provided future UF scientist with a rich record of the state's past ecological life.

"If you go out looking for these plants nowadays, you can find them but they're only in little isolated preserves," said UF botanist Mark Whitten at UF's Herbarium in Dickinson Hall. "My impression is what Minna Fernald saw was a much more wild and interesting Florida than what it is now."

Married to the chair of the department of entomology at the University of Massachusetts, Fernald (1860-1954) spent much of her life in Massachusetts before moving to Winter Park to retire. While in Florida, her husband was honored for his contributions to the field with a banquet by the Newell Entomological Society at UF. According to the program, the dinner included speeches by Harold Hume, Jon Tigert and Wilmon Newell – all familiar names at UF and important figures in the history of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station that first housed the herbarium.

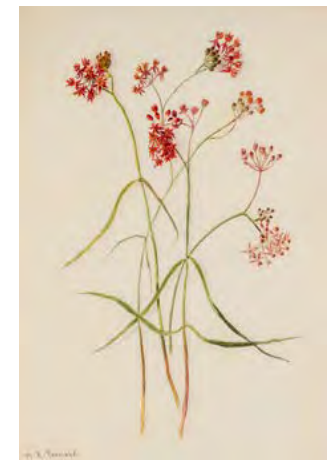
Fernald's obituary in The Winter Park Herald attributes her painting skill and fine detail to her studies at the Maryland Institute under Hugh Newell of the American Watercolor Society, whose work was popular during the mid-19th century. The newspaper also says Fernald's art was exhibited in Amherst, Massachusetts, and later won numerous awards in the Central Florida Exposition and exhibitions of the Florida Federation of Art.

The most impressive thing about Fernald's paintings is that the plants she chose to depict are nearly all immediately identifiable, said Lucas Majure, assistant curator of the herbarium, which is part of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

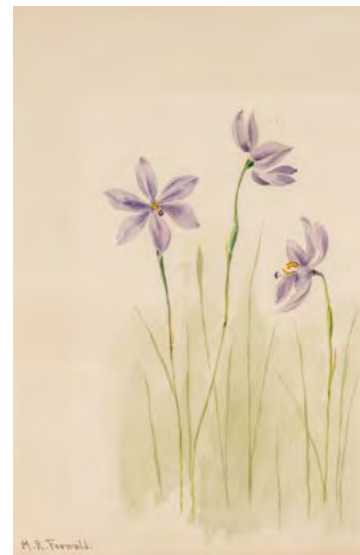
"Not only are they of artistic value, but I would say they're of scientific value from the standpoint that we were all standing around those paintings going 'Oh, that's that ... because they're exquisitely painted,' he said. "They're really nice paintings, but at the same time, they're very realistic."

UF is digitizing the paintings to preserve them and make them available to the public.

— HALLE MARCHESE (4LAS) AND LIESL O'DELL (BSJ 92)



Minna Fernald (1860-1954) is said to have taken a sketchbook and notebook with her on all of her travels. Her artwork, which focuses mainly on landscapes and wildflowers, is now cherished by Florida Museum of Natural History researchers.





DUANE MITCHELL



MICHAEL OKUN



LAURA RANUM



TODD GOLDE

THE BRAIN'S A-TEAM

WHEN IT COMES TO BRAIN RESEARCH, UF SCIENTISTS ARE AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME. MEET A FEW OF THE HEAVY HITTERS IN NEUROSCIENCE.

BY MICHELLE KOIDIN JAFFEE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON DAYE

Diseases of the brain steal: Some steal balance, others memory; some take away the ability to walk, even speak. Some result in a decline that's long and gradual, or heartbreakingly fast. Each condition is devastating in its own way for those afflicted and for all the people who love them.

Dementia, brain cancer, Parkinson's disease, ALS, stroke, dystonia, addiction and the typical cognitive declines that often come with aging are just a few of the threats to the brain. While to date neuroscience has revealed a great deal about how the brain works, it remains a mysterious frontier.

UF researchers have investigated, tested and treated myriad illnesses associated with

the brain for decades. But last fall, UF Provost Joe Glover declared the brain to be one of UF's priority initiatives. He offered additional funding to many of UF's cross-disciplinary, brain-related projects and directed scientists to accelerate their studies to offer the public more and improved treatment options.

The following four brain experts are among the many UF scientists, physicians, engineers, microbiologists, pharmacists, nurses and other faculty working on this initiative. In areas of brain research, treatment and the training of up-and-coming brain pioneers, they are UF's heavy hitters.

DUANE MITCHELL

Helping the body destroy tumors from within

GLIOBLASTOMA IS THE DEADLIEST OF BRAIN TUMORS, TYPICALLY CLAIMING ITS VICTIMS IN LESS THAN A YEAR AND A HALF FROM

diagnosis. It attacks the young, like Cara Hobbs, a 31-year-old marathoner with two toddlers, and the senior, like 81-year-old Sen. John McCain. Dr. Duane Mitchell is out to stop it.

A trailblazer in the use of immunotherapy for brain tumors, Mitchell brought his team from Duke to UF in 2013, and since then has won national recognition for the results of a clinical trial using an enhanced vaccine credited with significantly extending the lives of multiple glioblastoma patients, including one woman who is now in her 13th year cancer-free. The study, published in the journal

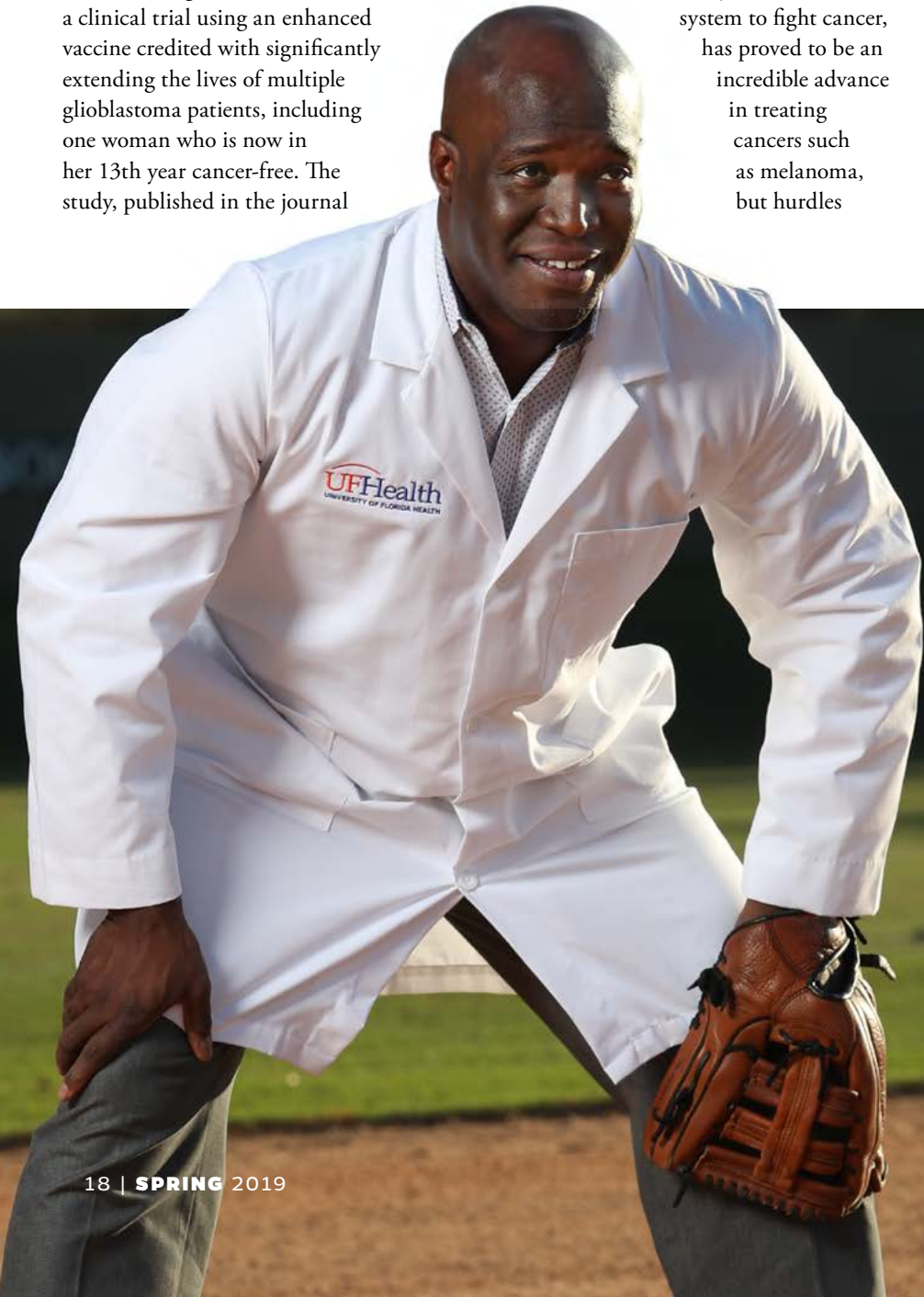
Nature, was named as a top 10 paper in clinical and translational science in all of U.S. scientific literature in 2015.


Now, Mitchell's team is pursuing a large Phase 2 clinical trial to confirm the benefits of the vaccine, while also leading new immunotherapy clinical trials for children with malignant brain tumors.

Immunotherapy, which uses the body's own immune system to fight cancer, has proved to be an incredible advance in treating cancers such as melanoma, but hurdles

remain in applying the approach to brain cancers. One at a time, Mitchell's team is taking the hurdles down. He is leading the way nationwide with a new UF Health-organized collaboration known as the ReMission Alliance, a first-ever 10-year initiative bringing together neuro-oncology experts from top peer institutions from across the United States and Canada.

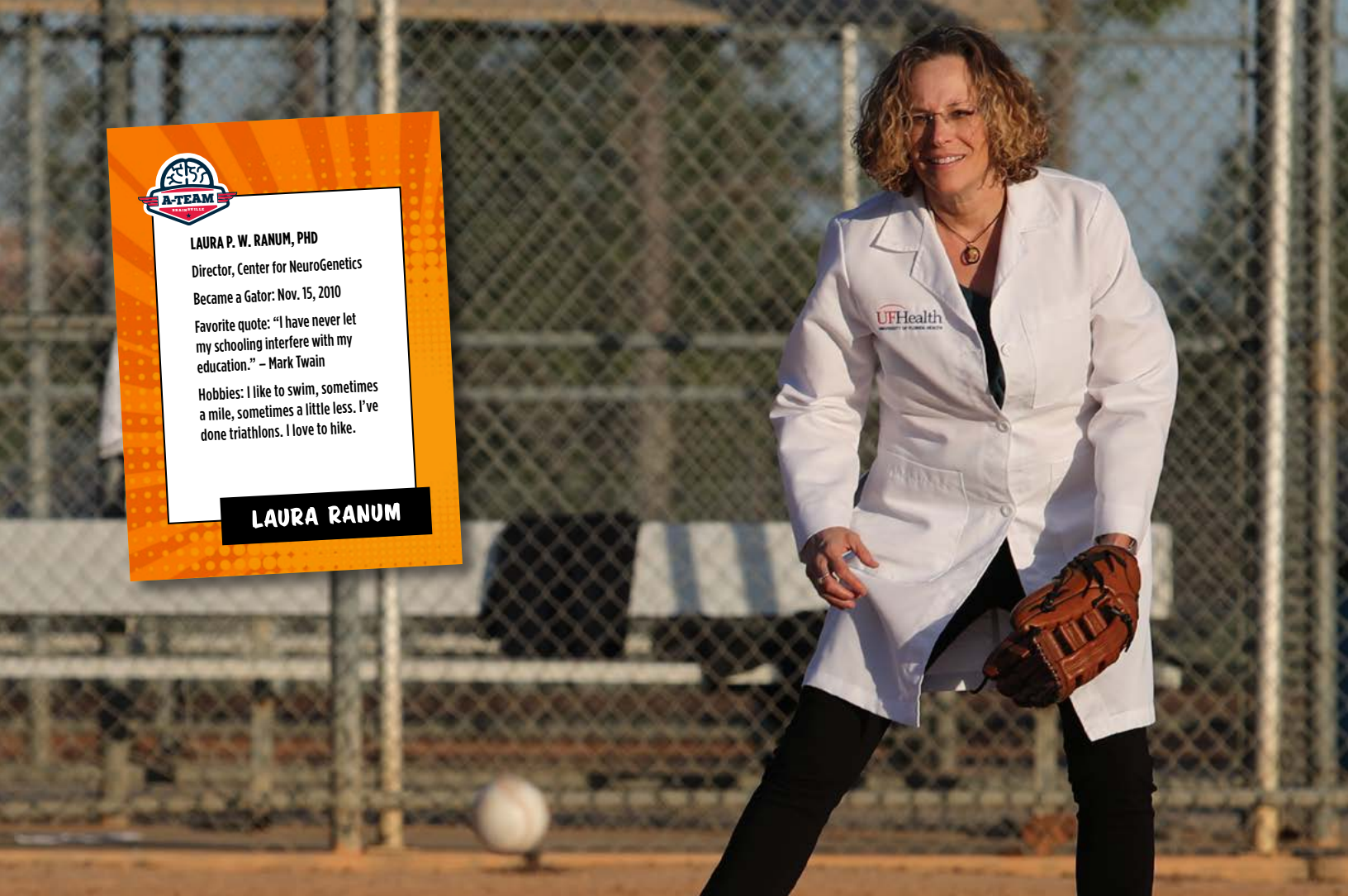
"The question that drives us is: How can we best engage the immune system to fight this deadly disease?" says Mitchell. "The ultimate goal is to make a significant contribution that helps cure brain tumors and can be applied to other cancers as well."






DR. DUANE A. MITCHELL
Director, UF Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program
Became a Gator: July 1, 2013
Hobbies: One of my favorite pastimes is hip-hop dancing.
In my spare time, I like to write fiction (adventure, sci-fi). I haven't published any; it's still a goal.

DUANE MITCHELL





LAURA P. W. RANUM, PHD
Director, Center for NeuroGenetics
Became a Gator: Nov. 15, 2010
Favorite quote: "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." — Mark Twain
Hobbies: I like to swim, sometimes a mile, sometimes a little less. I've done triathlons. I love to hike.

LAURA RANUM

LAURA RANUM

Discovering genetic mutations to spur new treatments

WHEN SHE WAS 5, SHE TOOK HER BIKE APART, TO SEE HOW THE CHAIN AND OTHER PIECES WORKED. IT WAS 1965, AND SHE EXPECTED A SCOLDING. "WHO TOOK YOUR BIKE APART?" HER DAD DEMANDED.

"I did," said little Laura.

"Huh," he said. "Maybe you should become a mechanical engineer." It was a first taste of what would become years of encouragement toward a career in engineering or science.

Ranum (pronounced Ran-uhm) took that curiosity in how things work to pursue a career in genetics. Today, she is widely recognized for discovering a series of genetic mutations and an unexpected type of protein production found in neurologic diseases such as ALS, Huntington's disease, ataxia and myotonic

dystrophy. Her discoveries inform drug development for these disorders.

Ranum's work has upended longstanding beliefs about how proteins in cells are made; she discovered that in people carrying "repeat expansion mutations" — or long stretches of repeat DNA — cells make unexpected proteins that build up in the brain and can lead to neurodegenerative diseases.

And while her findings were controversial at first, they are now recognized as groundbreaking and, in 2016, earned her the great honor of

being named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement in Science, awarded to those who make distinguished scientific advances.

What drives her?
"I'm just really motivated to figure out the puzzle of genetics," Ranum says. "If you know how a mutation is working to cause disease, then you have the potential of fixing the problem. Today we fundamentally know something very different about how these mutations work, and that may provide an Achilles' heel to treat these disorders."



MICHAEL OKUN

Helping patients manage debilitating symptoms

AT WORK, HE OFTEN PICTURES AN ARTISTIC RENDERING OF A MAN STANDING ATOP A GLOBE, LOOKING

at his watch. To Okun (pronounced Oak-un), the image represents his patients with Parkinson's disease, dystonia and other movement disorders — patients waiting and hoping for better treatments.

It's what drives him to constantly push to develop new approaches, rather than sit and count gains from the last 17 years. Okun, now chair of neurology, and his neurosurgeon-partner Dr. Kelly Foote have become known internationally as pioneers in deep brain stimulation, a therapy remarkably effective at controlling tremors, and have implanted leads in more than 1,000 patients. But between surgeries, they continue to work to refine and improve the technology, while also expanding who can receive it beyond patients with Parkinson's or essential tremor: Okun and Foote have seen life-altering symptom relief in patients with dystonia, Tourette syndrome and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

All the while, Okun is carrying out his overarching vision.

A renowned expert in Parkinson's disease who has cared for patients from across the globe including Muhammad Ali and Janet Reno, Okun co-created with Foote a one-of-a-kind combined clinic-lab in 2011 where patients with movement disorders can see all their potential providers under one roof — neurologist, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist, social worker, neurosurgeon and more — so the team can collaborate on patient care and also do research into emerging personalized therapies, while the patient only has to go to one location. "The patient is the sun," Okun says, "and we should all orbit around the patient."

With a generous gift in January 2019, what was known as UF's Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration has grown to become the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health; construction on a new building with an expanded mission is underway.

"We're always looking forward," Okun says. "How many can we help heal? How many can we help with their suffering?"

TODD GOLDE

Developing new therapies and managing an army of scientists

LOOKING FOR THE DOC? HE MAY BE IN THE LAB, ENCOURAGING STUDENT-SCIENTISTS IN THE PURSUIT OF POSSIBLE DRUG TARGETS FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE. OR YOU MIGHT TRY HIS OFFICE, WHERE HE'S DESIGNING A

protocol for the UF-led 1Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, a statewide effort he directs to fight a disease that affects as many as 600,000 Floridians. Or he could be brainstorming with a cross-disciplinary team in UF's Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute, known as the MBI, which under his direction is conducting some of the nation's highest-quality neuroscience research. Golde (pronounced Goldie), an international expert in the scientific understanding of Alzheimer's disease, became MBI director in late 2016, and since then has been facilitating multidisciplinary teams from among more than 150 faculty members from all 16 UF colleges who are involved in some

kind of neuroscience research. The MBI has some of the world's leading experts in neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS; brain cancer; cognitive aging; dystonia; mental health, neurobehavioral sciences and psychiatry; and brain and spinal cord injury, and Golde's mission is to support research that translates into therapies that could benefit patients.

And while his own successes in the lab include a leading role in the series of seminal papers that laid the foundation for the breakthrough advance known as the amyloid hypothesis of Alzheimer's disease and, more recently, studies involving the use of antibodies to target

psychological stress pathways, Golde's aim remains cracking the nut of developing new therapies.

"My true passion is trying to find new approaches to this challenge, not only for Alzheimer's disease but other neurodegenerative or neurological disorders that lack therapeutic options for patients," Golde says. "Our ultimate goal is to help contribute to research that will change the lexicon from being untreatable, incurable and inevitable to treatable, curable and preventable."



DR. TODD E. GOLDE

Director, UF McKnight Brain Institute

Became a Gator: December 2009

Favorite Quote: "The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' but 'That's funny ...'" by Isaac Asimov

Hobbies: In my spare time, I like to cook. My favorite dish is paella.

TODD GOLDE

Editor's note: These busy scientists were great sports to participate in this photo shoot that portrays them as baseball players. However, it wasn't such a stretch for Todd Golde, who played first and third bases in high school. He's proud to have played his entire senior year without making a single error. Michael Okun is a huge baseball fan, too. He follows the Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees.

TWO JOCKS, ONE GOAL: CURE PARKINSON'S

STORY BY BARBARA DRAKE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON DAYE



It's a chilly December morning in Gainesville, and inside the O'Connell Center basketball arena, two men in their 40s — one in a red T-shirt, the other in Gator blue — are playing a game of one-on-one.

Trotting up and down the orange-and-blue floorboards, the two players might not be professional athletes, but they're fueled by a similar desire to excel.

The player in red, Gary Keating, launches a jump shot, his feet lightly tapping together before he lands. Swish.

Grabbing the rebound, David Vaillancourt, in blue, shows a nice touch on the ball as he goes for one in the paint. Swish.

Back to Keating, who scores some threes from the perimeter.

Just two regular guys shooting around, right?

Not quite. Dr. Vaillancourt, 44, is a renowned professor and researcher in movement disorders at the UF College of Human Health and Performance. His recent laboratory discovery is poised to transform how Parkinson's disease is diagnosed and monitored — and maybe even cured, one day.

Keating, 48, is a patient and a participant in one of Vaillancourt's research studies. A former basketball coach from New Jersey who was diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 38, Keating has managed to slow the disease's progression — partly, it seems, by practicing his own series of daily basketball drills.

They're here in the O'Connell Center because — medical research aside — the two discovered a mutual love of the sport.

"Let's play together," suggested Vaillancourt. "At the O'Dome," he added, never one for half measures.

"Great," Keating e-mailed back, trying not to smash the keys in excitement.

So today's game of one-on-one skews more "social" than "science." But now that Vaillancourt's chasing Keating around the court, now that he's seeing the unusual facility with which this young-onset Parkinson's patient moves — his smooth footwork, quick hand movements, crisp passes — it crosses his mind: Maybe I could learn something new from this guy.

Because, to be honest, even for a specialist like Vaillancourt, it's really hard to see that Keating has any disease at all when he's on the court.

WORKING ON A MYSTERY

Parkinson's is a mystery. First identified more than 200 years ago, scientists still can't pinpoint what causes the

disease. Its symptoms — shaking, stiffness, difficulty with balance, walking and coordination, depression — start gradually, vary widely from patient to patient, and can be easily mistaken for those of other neurodegenerative conditions. In fact, more than a quarter of patients initially diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (PD) later turn out to have something else.

Medications can control symptoms, but there is no cure — yet.

Those realities make life very hard for people with PD, who number about 1 million in the United States.

"Our ability to move is core to who we are as humans," says Vaillancourt, a Texas native who began his college career on a basketball scholarship before earning his PhD in kinesiology at Penn State.

"In Parkinson's disease, your ability to perform the simplest of movements becomes problematic over time," he explains in calm, measured tones. "So I'm very much attracted to alleviating that issue.

"I think that if we can do that, we'll have a major impact on society and people's wellbeing."

TEAMING WITH FOX FOUNDATION

Until very recently, Parkinson's researchers lacked an essential tool: biological indicators of the disease, such as proteins in the blood, that can be measured and quantified. Without those biomarkers, as they're called, specialists have had to rely on patients' symptoms to diagnose and monitor PD.

(For a comparison, imagine if there were no blood tests for leukemia, and oncologists had to tease out a diagnosis based on a patient's temperature, fatigue level and weight loss.)

Biomarkers also are needed for new Parkinson's medication studies. Biomarkers enable scientists to objectively assess how a treatment affects the underlying pathology in the body, revealing if the medication is capable of slowing or even stopping progression of the disease.

The need for reliable PD biomarkers is so urgent that in 2012 the Michael J. Fox Foundation launched the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) to encourage scientists to find these critical missing links for better treatments.

Since Vaillancourt's days as a post-doc student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he's been using

neuroimaging to search deep inside the brain for signs of PD and other movement disorders. Now his years of effort have scored a slam dunk for the PPMI.

In 2014, Vaillancourt and his UF lab made history when they identified the first noninvasive imaging biomarker of PD: structural changes in the substantia nigra, a nucleus in the midbrain that is key to movement and production of dopamine.

The team used diffusion imaging, a type of MRI, to reveal that, over time, Parkinson's patients lost vital dopamine neurons in the substantia nigra and gained more of a fluid known as free water.

Those initial results — first limited to a study involving 48 patients at UF and the brain scans of 134 patients from the PPMI database — were then validated in a four-year NIH-funded study involving eight sites around the globe.

Importantly, unlike an earlier, costlier brain biomarker for PD, Vaillancourt's marker can be detected without having to inject patients with radioactive dye. That makes the process noninvasive, faster, safer for subjects and doable on even basic MRI equipment, thus lowering costs for researchers and clinicians.

"Dr. David Vaillancourt's pioneering research has the potential to improve the way we diagnose and track Parkinson's disease," says Mark Frasier, senior vice president of research programs at the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which funded the PPMI landmark study.

Since its debut four years ago, the free water biomarker has passed through every subsequent hurdle for it to be adopted in testing new medications.

"Now all that's needed is for it to be included in a new clinical trial," says Vaillancourt.

VOLUNTEERING FOR A CURE

While waiting for that green light, Vaillancourt and his team at the Laboratory for Rehabilitation Neuroscience have been forging ahead with the free-water technique, testing its application in two distinct areas.

In one study, they're examining the biomarker's effectiveness at distinguishing PD from other "parkinsonisms," related disorders that develop more

rapidly and aggressively. His lab also is investigating the effects on free water of an existing Parkinson's medication (Azilect), the first time a PD biomarker has been used in a clinical drug trial.

Both studies rely on the advanced imaging systems at UF's McKnight Brain Institute. Trial volunteers lie inside futuristic fMRI machines for 40-plus minutes while performing specific motor tasks. On the other side of the glass, a technician captures tens of thousands of images of each patient's brain, layer by layer, in real time.

It's a demanding, tedious process, but these test subjects gladly stay put, knowing their data sets can lead to a cure.

Many PD patients share this desire to help others, Vaillancourt has observed.

"People with Parkinson's are very motivated about improving not only their own health care, but other people's too," he says, "so they are very much into research. Getting patients to participate in studies is easy because they're just such good-hearted, down-to-earth people."

For Gary Keating, who earned a degree in athletic administration from St. Johns University, taking part in Vaillancourt's research trials has given him a renewed purpose in life.

"I always knew there was a reason I was given Parkinson's," says Keating. "And that reason is, I want to help people."

"I did it as a coach," he adds. "Now I'm supposed to continue helping people in a different direction — by doing the trials and giving my results. It's exciting."

A FATHER'S DIAGNOSIS

For an athlete used to beating competitors on the court, Keating views Parkinson's as the ultimate opponent. He refuses to give in.

"I've fought through a lot of this in my life," he says in his soft Jersey accent. "This is just another one to me."

His mettle was first tested while his dad, also a basketball coach, was sick with PD. Keating gave up his own dream job coaching basketball at Keystone College, in Pennsylvania, to care for him. Then, six months to the day after his father's death, in 2009, a neurologist told Keating he had the same disease.

"Our ability to move is core to who we are as humans."
— Dr. David Vaillancourt



PHOTO PROVIDED BY UF COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

"The news hits you hard," he admits. "I knew what my father went through. At first, all I could think was, 'That's my future.' It was quite an emotional day."

But the neurologist told him to stop replaying memories of his elderly father's 14-year-long demise.

"The first thing the doctor said to me was, 'Do not compare yourself to your father because what happened to him may not happen to you,'" recalls Keating. "And he explained how individualistic Parkinson's is. That woke up the fighting spirit in me.

"I said, 'Okay, there's a better road.' I don't want to end up like my father. I want to stay like this — active."

THREE COACHES

Keating has been on a quest ever since to live well with young-onset Parkinson's. Over the last decade, he retired from coaching, fought discrimination at work due to his illness and left the northeast to seek better

treatment in Florida. A steady regimen of two low-dose PD medications, Requip and Azilect, accompanied him wherever he went.

"The medications have held the disease back," says Keating. "Sometimes I'll get the tremor again, but nothing like before, when I wasn't taking them."

He also credits his religious faith and a positive attitude for keeping him healthy — as well as an unorthodox Parkinson's exercise regime: his own series of daily basketball drills.

"I've kept on playing basketball in the driveway," he says, "a half an hour to an hour a day," using the same drills he used to train his young players.

"Dribbles, one hand to the other, stationary, moving," he says. "It helps."

Helps is an understatement: People usually look at Keating in surprise when he tells them he has PD.

But the disease is more than just tremors. Many Parkinson's patients experience non-motor symptoms, such as problems with



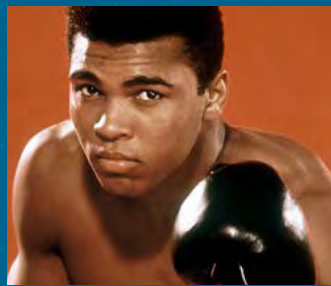
GEORGE H.W. BUSH



MICHAEL J. FOX



LINDA RONSTADT



MUHAMMAD ALI

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

- Neurodegenerative disease that interferes with movement
- Affects about 1 million Americans, 7-10 million people worldwide
- More frequent in men than women (about 2:1 ratio)
- Symptoms and severity vary widely, and may include:
 - Tremor of hands, arms, legs or face
 - Slowed movement
 - Rigidity of limbs and trunk
 - Problems with balance, coordination
 - Slurred speech
 - Depression
- Cause(s) are unknown
- No cure, yet
- Famous people with PD include:
 - actor Michael J. Fox
 - former U.S. President George H.W. Bush
 - boxer Muhammad Ali
 - singer Linda Ronstadt
 - actor Alan Alda
 - civil rights activist Jesse Jackson
 - singer Neil Diamond
 - former NBA player Brian Grant

sleep, mood, vision and even sense of smell. Impaired memory and thinking are also common, says Dr. Rachel Dolhun, a movement disorder specialist and vice president of medical communications at the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

“Cognitive dysfunction can occur at any stage in Parkinson’s disease and can range from mild to severe,” says Dr. Dolhun. “It typically involves activities like multitasking, problem solving, planning or organizing. People can also have problems concentrating or finding their words when speaking.”

Keating, who is an articulate communicator, admits that words sometimes escape him. For him, having the disease is primarily an internal experience.

“There are days I feel lightheaded and weak, and I can’t do much,” he says. “Other days, I’ll look okay, but I might have to reach out and hold onto your arm.”

“I always knew there was a reason I was given Parkinson’s. And that reason is, I want to help people.”

— Gary Keating

In his quest for the best care possible, Keating resettled in Gainesville four years ago and sought treatment at UF Health’s Center for Movement Disorders &

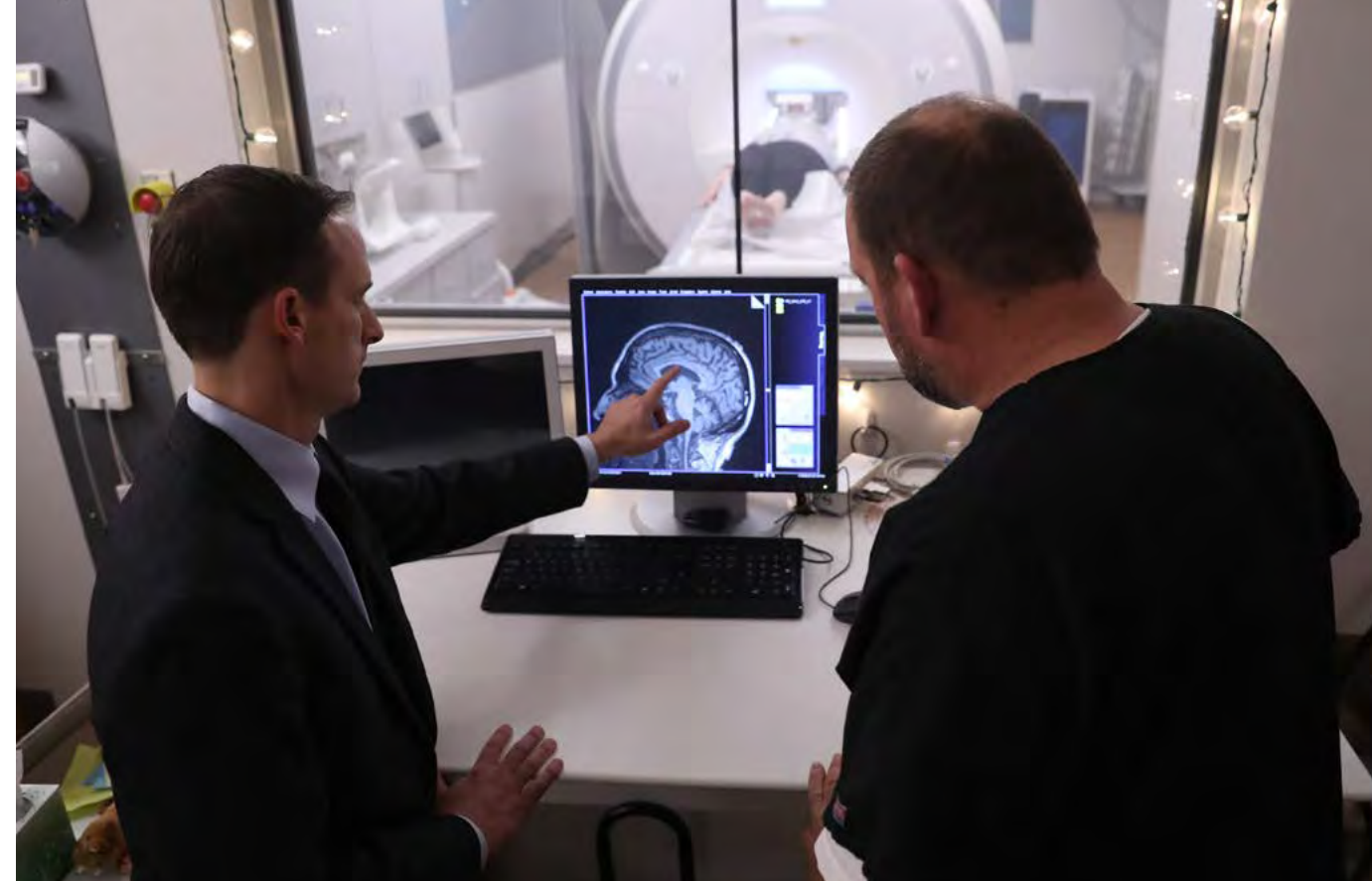
Neurorestoration, which encompasses a National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence.

It was at UF that Keating volunteered for one of Vaillancourt’s biomarker studies in 2017. Participating in the study spurred Keating to write a short memoir, “Father and Son: A Game and a Battle with Parkinson’s,” published this year by Covenant Books.

“I’m hoping the book will help other people who have it — and maybe other young-onsets,” says the first-time author. “Because I know some young onsets don’t want to say they have Parkinson’s.”

During the 12 months he participated in the UF study, Keating had no idea Vaillancourt coaches two youth basketball teams in Gainesville — yet another connection between the two men.

When Keating found out their shared love of the sport, in November 2018, he was speechless. “Wow!” he said. “What are the odds? Three coaches — him, me and my dad.”



SHOOTING FOR A CURE

Back at the O’Dome, Vaillancourt and Keating are winding up their game. They leave the court drenched in sweat, but at a cameraman’s insistence, Keating comes back to demonstrate the daily drills that keep his motor skills up to speed. They’re his own invention, but they’ve got Vaillancourt intrigued.

Before joining the faculty at the College of Health and Human Performance, Vaillancourt contributed to a study that concluded regular resistance training — with a focus on the whole body — helps slow down Parkinson’s. Keating’s drills aren’t anything like those exercises.

“He’s doing a lot of small movements of his hands, ball handling,” says Vaillancourt. “His moves incorporate balance,

posture — all the things patients need. In many ways, he’s doing something really fresh and out of the box.”

Today’s game has given the two men an appreciation of each other’s skills and taken them outside their everyday routines. Looking forward, what are their hopes for the future of Parkinson’s research?

“My dream is to one day find the cure,” says Keating. “To do anything possible that I can do, to help find it. It’s all for that one day that I can tell my father, ‘We won.’”

And Vaillancourt?

He glances at Keating, smiling a boyish grin: “I cannot have another dream. He’s pretty much summed it all up.” ●



TO SUPPORT VAILLANCOURT’S RESEARCH, call Lesley Thurston at 352-294-1650 or email LThurston@ufl.edu. To learn more about Dr. Vaillancourt and his team’s ongoing and completed studies, visit www.hhp.ufl.edu and search “Laboratory for Rehabilitation Neuroscience.” Keating’s memoir, “Father and Son: A Game and a Battle with Parkinson’s,” is sold online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

A **MARATHON** OF MOTION AND MUSIC RAISES
A TOTAL OF **\$18.3 MILLION** FOR SICK CHILDREN

JUST GOTTA

DANCE

\$3,026,420.19 DANCE MARATHON AT UF 2018

Miracle Network Dance Marathon unites colleges across the United States and Canada in a students' driven movement to help children with serious illnesses. The Gators' Dance Marathon program supports **UF Health Shands Children's Hospital**, one of the 170 pediatric hospitals in not-for-profit Children's Miracle Network.

STORY BY DAVID FINNERTY

In 1995, Gators quarterback Danny Wuerffel led the NCAA in touchdown passes. That same year, Dance Marathon at UF became one of the first five programs of its kind in the country.

With it, Gator altruism would be forever changed. Students finally had a voice — and the feet — to make a cause their own. In the 25 years this spring since, 15,327 dancers and an army of advocates have raised more than \$18.3 million for research, technology and activities for pediatric patients at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, Gainesville's Children's Miracle Network hospital.



For more information and how to get involved go to floridadm.org

2019 Dance Marathon Child Ambassador, **Izabella Neira**, 7.



AARON DAYE/UF ADVANCEMENT



MARATHON MILESTONES

- 2003:** Nine years in, total donations top **\$1 million**
- 2012:** 18 years after inception, combined contributions surpass **\$5 million**
- 2013:** For the first time, **\$1 million** collected in a single year
- 2015:** Total giving doubles to **\$10 million**; and annual fundraising tops \$2 million for first time
- 2017:** Dance Marathon's popularity soars, and with it cumulative giving passes **\$15 million**
- 2018:** **\$3 million in one year raised for first time**, and total giving is \$18.3 million



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UF DANCE MARATHON

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

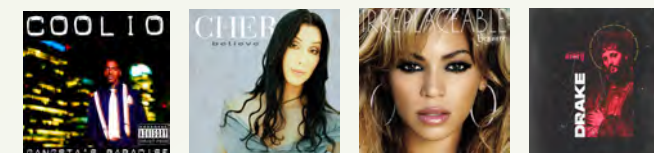
- UF's Dance Marathon is the **largest fundraising student organization** in the Southeast.
- Dance Marathon is so popular there **isn't enough room on the dance floor** for everyone who wants to participate. Each year, because of fire codes, organizers turn away wannabe dancers who don't register soon enough.
- For every student wearing dancing shoes, **another seven or so people work behind the scenes** to stage the marathon and raise dollars.
- Although the annual Dance Marathon itself is just one weekend, the Dance Marathon program **hosts events throughout the year** to support the Children's Miracle Network.
- There have been **more than 100 child ambassadors** during the past 25 years. Two of them — Nate Ferrell, 10 (pictured above, second row, center), and Izabella Neira, 7 (at left) — have been recognized as national Children's Miracle Network champions: Nate for 2014 and 2018; Izabella for 2019.

WHAT THEY DANCED TO

A sampling of *Billboard's Top Pop Songs of the Year* since the beginning of Dance Marathon:

- 1995** - "Gangsta's Paradise" Coolio
- 1996** - "Macarena" Los del Rio
- 1999** - "Believe" Cher
- 2004** - "Yeah!" Usher
- 2007** - "Irreplaceable" Beyonce
- 2008** - "Low" Flo Rida
- 2010** - "Tik Tok" Kesha
- 2014** - "Happy" Pharrell Williams
- 2017** - "Shape of You" Ed Sheeran
- 2018** - "God's Plan" Drake

THEN AND NOW



NUMBER OF DANCERS

1995
79
Rion Ballroom,
Reitz Student Union

→

2018
825
O'Connell
Center

AMOUNT RAISED

1995
\$12,424.66

→

2018
\$3,026,420.19

ART+ACTION

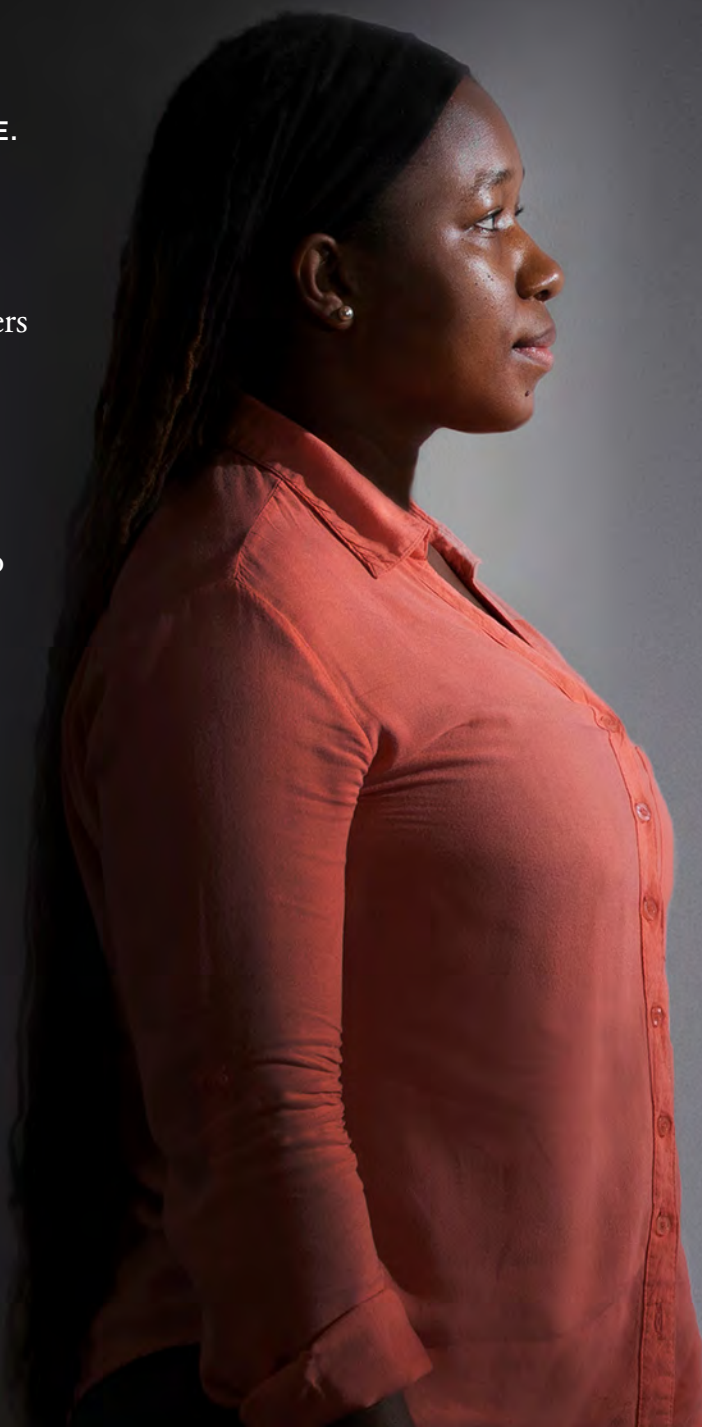
CREATING **THE WORLD TO COME**

BY ALISSON CLARK (BSJ 98, MAMC 16)

THE CHALLENGES FACING THE NATURAL WORLD THAT SUSTAINS US ARE MASSIVE. So are the determination and ingenuity of University of Florida faculty, staff and students devoted to solving them. Here, we highlight some of the people dedicating their careers to our well-being, paired with works from “*The World to Come: Art in the Age of the Anthropocene*” an exhibition created by UF’s Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.

If you’ve ever wondered what one person can do in the face of such overwhelming issues, read on and be inspired. See the rest of the series at ufl.to/theworldtocome.

PHOTOS OF UF SCIENTISTS ARE BY BRIANNE LEHAN
AND LYON DUONG, UF PHOTOGRAPHY



ZOLISWA “ZOE” NHLEKO + *WHITE RHINO EXTINCTION*

Doctoral candidate, UF/IFAS School of Natural Resources and Environment; Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

A junior scientist with South African National Parks, Nhleko uncovers how stress from poaching affects white rhino populations.

RHINO MYSTERIES: “There’s lots of general descriptive information about rhinos — they walk around and nibble on this and that. But we are missing some key elements that will help us save them. One key question is how they choose their habitat. It’s not clear why they prefer the southern part of Kruger National Park over some of the other habitats available in the northern parts of the park. “Once we understand what they are looking

for, then we may be able to move them from high-poaching areas.”

FEAR FACTOR: Figuring out what scares white rhinos could help protect them. “If we know what stresses them, we could manipulate the environment and make it unsuitable in a way that gets them out of danger.

HOW DO YOU STAY OPTIMISTIC? “It’s the possibility that we might actually figure something out and save the species. It’s been done before. They’ve saved rhinos from less than 100 individuals left.”

ABOUT THE ARTWORK: This photo “White Rhino, Namibia,” is by Maroesjka Lavigne

MAIA MCGUIRE + PLASTIC POLLUTION

UF/IFAS Extension Florida Sea Grant agent

Up to 95 percent of litter in the ocean is plastic, which harms wildlife and makes its way into our food and water. McGuire has inspired thousands to make small changes to reduce plastic waste.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK: “My job is to teach people about the coastal environment and the ways human actions impact it.”

TAKING THE PLEDGE: McGuire created the Florida Microplastic Awareness Project, which offers eight ways to cut plastic waste, from using sustainable shopping bags to choosing natural fabrics over synthetics. “I’m often asked, ‘What can one person do?’ One person can do a lot!”

SMALL CHANGES ADD UP: “If you go to a fast food restaurant once a week and use a reusable cup instead of a disposable cup, lid and straw, that’s more than 150 pieces of plastic a year you’re no longer throwing away.”

WHAT’S NEXT? “We ultimately need policy changes, whether it’s climate change, plastics in the ocean, coastal erosion or invasive species. But by raising awareness and providing people with actions they can take, I really do believe that in the long term, people will band together and things will happen at a higher level.”

HOW ABOUT THE SHORT TERM? “I’d love to get people to rethink the way they shop. You can buy fruits and vegetables loose instead of in a plastic bag or on a foam tray.” McGuire also carries a container in her car for restaurant leftovers and even a mess kit to avoid disposable plates and utensils. For more ideas, visit plasticaware.org.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK: This photo by Chris Jordan shows plastic items found in the stomach contents of a juvenile Laysan albatross.

“THE WORLD TO COME: ART IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE”

When this Harn exhibit ends on March 3, it will travel to the University of Michigan Museum of Art from April 27-July 28, 2019.



CHRISTINE ANGELINI + COASTAL CONSERVATION

Assistant professor, Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment, Wertheim College of Engineering

A diehard ice hockey player, she turned her penchant for teamwork and tough challenges toward science during her junior year at Brown and has been working on coastal conservation ever since.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK: Understanding and restoring resilient coastal ecosystems

WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD? Coastal wetlands can protect us from storms and algae blooms and support fishing and tourism, but they remain underappreciated. “A marsh is not a wasteland. A marsh is something that brings us tremendous value.”

WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED? “We’re constantly learning new things about how the environment is working, and to me it’s always fascinating.”

HOW DO YOU STAY OPTIMISTIC? “I’ve been working a lot more with managers here in Florida who are on the ground doing restoration activities. I almost think it’s the opposite of what’s happening in the political climate of divisions, of folks not talking to each other.”

WHAT CAN WE DO? “Every property owner can be a steward of the land by their home, whether they are near a beach, salt marsh or have a dock, they can help protect those ecosystems.” For ideas, visit www.flseagrant.org/florida-living-shorelines.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK: The photo behind Angelini is titled, “Swamp and Pipeline, Cancer Alley, Louisiana” by Richard Misrach





PRABIR BAROOAH
+ SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Associate professor of mechanical engineering, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Buildings consume almost half of the energy used in the U.S. Barooah works on ways to reduce consumption while delivering better results. Next up: Taking his expertise public to help inform policy.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK: Sustainability through intelligent energy use

HOW CAN BUILDINGS BE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT? Buildings use energy about as well as a car that's being driven in third gear all the time: It works, but it's not efficient. He is working on software that would serve as the equivalent of an automatic transmission. "We need better algorithms to make these systems shift gears automatically, all the time."

WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED? "We don't have a backup planet."

WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD? LEED certifications are a start, but would you buy a car based on its great gas mileage if there was no way to verify it? "... Verification is unsexy, but if you really care about efficiency, energy policy needs to be backed up by measurement."

HOW DO YOU STAY OPTIMISTIC? "As a university professor, I deal with young people, and they don't come with preconceived notions."

WHAT'S NEXT? "I'd like to educate policymakers to make sure they're asking the right questions. As engineers, we can come up with technologies, but unless the policy framework is there to make sure the right technologies are used, then things are not going to change."

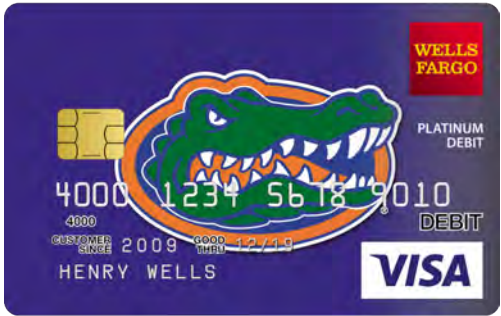
ABOUT THE ARTWORK: This sculpture that integrates electrical objects and wiring is titled, "Ornamental Mountains and Seas — Monster and Cloud" by Haegue Yang.



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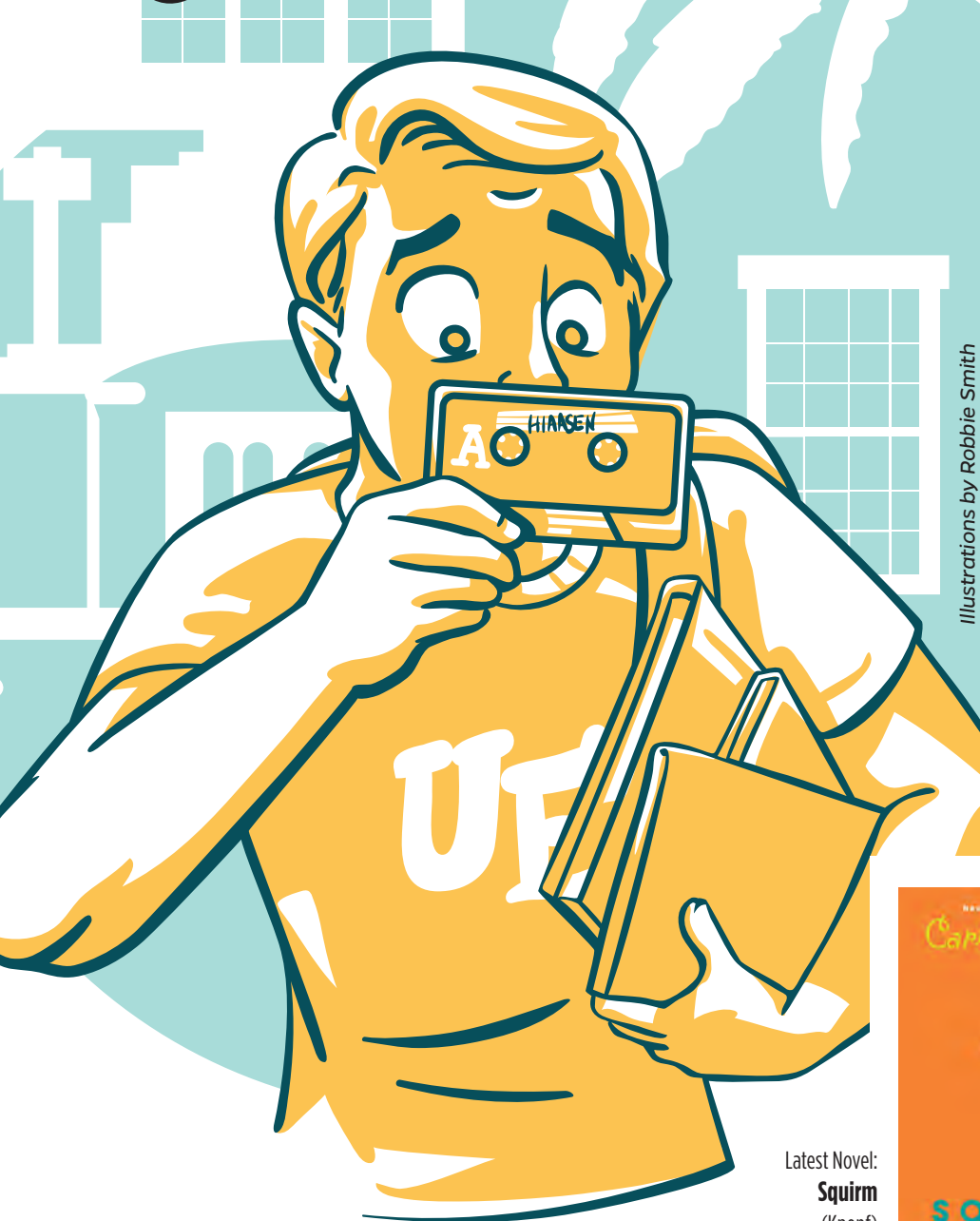




What are your most vivid memories of being a student at UF

We posed this question to five celebrated writers at the 35th annual Miami Book Fair in November. Here's what they told us about their Gator days:

CARL DREADED and the CASSETTE AND OTHER MUSINGS FROM GATOR AUTHORS



Illustrations by Robbie Smith

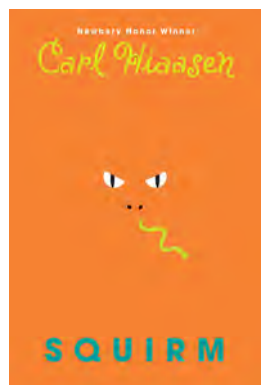


Carl Hiaasen

A longtime columnist for the Miami Herald and bestselling novelist with more than 20 books to his credit, Hiaasen (BSJ '74) is known for his biting commentary on corrupt politicians, business scandals and attacks on the environment.

The most vivid memory I have of UF is Buddy Davis' [1924-2004] editorial writing class. Of course, he'd won a Pulitzer writing editorials for the Gainesville Sun, and he was extremely demanding. Every week you wrote an editorial, and he didn't give you a written grade; he critiqued the whole thing on a cassette and the last line would be your grade. He'd take your piece apart, line by line, sentence by sentence, thought by thought, and so by the end of Buddy's monologue, you were just shriveled, withered with fear. You were ecstatic to get a B. It was inevitably brutal.

When you saw that cassette, it was like, "Oh, God." Your stomach almost started hurting right away. But he was a great teacher. You had to get to the point – clean, clear, crisp writing. He didn't like any bologna. No tricks. Anyone who survived Bud Davis' class was a better journalist because of it.



Latest Novel:
Squirm
(Knopf)



James Grippando

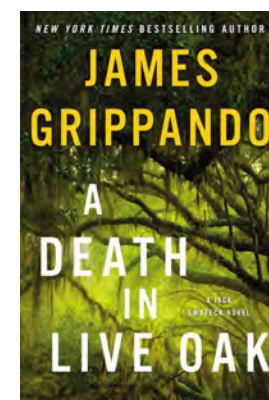
Winner of the 2017 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction, Grippando (BA '80, Law '82)

balances dual careers as a trial lawyer and legal-suspense author. The secret to his realistic dialogue lies in lessons learned the hard way at UF.

One of the most meaningful memories was a class led by Sid Homan, then the head of the English department. Sid was among the top three teachers I've ever had. He had us write a paper a week, no more than three to five pages

So we had to be good self-editors, and Sid – he insisted we call him Sid, never Professor Holman – would have two or three papers that he would read out loud to the class. It was an honor to have your paper chosen, but it was also revealing because, to this day, I can recall how it feels to see someone stumbling over something you wrote. That especially sticks with me as a writer of fiction, where dialogue has to ring true. To this day I will read out loud what I write before I deliver it to my editor at Harper Collins publishers.

So a nod to Sid for teaching me that it may look like the most eloquent sentence, but the proof is in whether it passes the Sid Test.



Latest Novel:
A Death in Live Oak
(Harper)



Aaron Thier

A native of western Massachusetts and author of three darkly comic novels, Thier

(MFA Fiction '12) is a finalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor. He recalls the surreal experience of encountering the Southern landscape for the first time.

I had only applied to MFA programs below a certain line of latitude. I was really fed up with my New England-ness and those winters. So arriving in Gainesville in that heat, with Spanish moss everywhere – it like being on a different planet. I kept leaving the windows open in my car and it would fill with water. I got all kinds of weird poison ivy-type reactions wandering around on Paynes Prairie, and even that was great. It was all evidence that was a new place.

I had grown up in Southern literary culture because I learned how to write from reading Barthelme, Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor and those guys. But coming to Florida was the first time I'd ever seen slave cabins and sugarcane

fields. So there was this intersection with history that hadn't been available to me before. The Civil War is real there; slavery is real. There are scars on the landscape itself. All that ended up being in my first novel.



Latest Novel:
The World is a Narrow Bridge
(Bloomsbury)



David Lawrence, Jr.

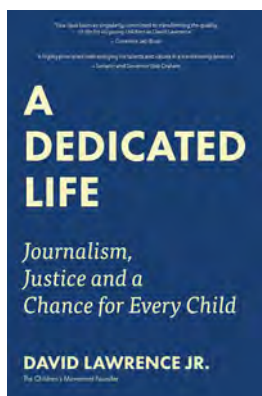
During Lawrence's (BSJ '63) tenure as publisher of the Miami Herald (1989-1999), the paper won five

Pulitzer Prizes. Covering student protests and desegregation at UF in the early '60s was the ideal proving ground for a budding newspaperman.

I was at the University of Florida when its undergraduate division was just desegregated in the fall of 1962. Half the campus thought, "This is a really good idea in God's world." And the other half thought that Satan had taken over. It was a very tumultuous time, not a happy time, certainly, but a good time for a journalist.

I was the first editor ever fired by the college newspaper's Board of Student Publications, which was faculty controlled. I had run a letter to the editor – not from me – praising free love. I didn't even know what it was – this was 1963. And I had the temerity to do a weekly column from the state NAACP; it was seen as a very radical act. And there were other things involved. So ultimately, so many editors got fired, which is how you got the Independent Florida Alligator.

I met my wife there, incidentally, at the Alligator. That's a lifelong blessing. We will have been married 55 years next month.



Latest Book:
A Dedicated Life: Journalism, Justice and a Chance for Every Child
(Mango)



Lisandro Perez

Born in Havana and raised in the United States, Perez (MA '73, PhD '74 Sociology)

is chair of the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies at John Jay School of Criminal Justice, in New York.

In the fall of 1973, I took my exams for my Ph.D. in sociology. First there was a battery of written exams, and the feedback was not positive. They said, "We're going to allow you to take the orals, but you need to do very well because your writings were not very good." The day they wanted to get together was Dec. 5.

Well, Dec. 5 is the feast day of Saint Barbara in the Catholic pantheon of the saints, but it's also the saint that's syncretized with the African orisha [god] Changó. In Miami and Cuba, Dec. 5 is celebrated by those who follow the Afro-Cuban religions, and you have to pay homage to the saint by wearing red. I happened to mention this to a committee member, adding, "and I'll be sure and wear red."

At the oral exam, all five committee members showed up wearing something red – a red tie, a red shirt, something. That was a great support. I did very well on those exams.



Latest Book:
Sugar, Cigars, and Revolution: The Making of Cuban New York
(NYU Press)



What is YOUR favorite UF story or experience?

Please submit your UF memory and photos — subject line "My Old School" — to:

FloridaGator@ufalumni.ufl.edu
— or —

Florida Gator Magazine
P.O. Box 14425
Gainesville, FL 32604-2425

Photos can be scanned and returned upon request. Editors reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. If your story is chosen, it will appear in an upcoming issue.

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HUMBLE HOLLOWAY WINS HEARTS, RACES

John Anderson had no idea what to say. The ESPN personality (below, on right), known for his work as a SportsCenter anchor, is well versed in the art of ad-libbing, but Florida's do-it-all star Grant Holloway caught him completely off guard while they shared the stage at last month's presentation of The Bowerman, collegiate track and field's highest individual honor.



The ceremony draws parallels to the Heisman Trophy, with previous winners returning and each of the three men's and women's finalists coming front and center for an interview with Anderson.

Following his initial round of questions, Anderson offered for Holloway to flip the script and quiz him, adding "This is not about me. I don't get anything at the end of the night," Anderson said.

"I probably won't either," Holloway quipped.

The self-deprecating joke stunned everyone, leaving Holloway a moment to laugh entirely on his own before the audience joined in. All a bewildered Anderson could muster in response was, "Wow."

Classic Grant Holloway.

Much of UF's community is aware of Holloway's athletic exploits. They know he holds a collegiate record, swept the indoor and outdoor high hurdles NCAA titles his first two seasons, that he opted to return to Gainesville for his junior season rather than turn professional, and that it all started with giving up football to chase his dream of winning an Olympic gold medal. Dedicated track and field fans recognize he is one of the most unique athletes to ever compete in the sport, as Holloway has

proven to be an elite hurdler, long jumper, and sprinter, a combination rarely even attempted, let alone executed at a world-class level.

But there is much more to Holloway than an insane list of achievements and a myriad of trophies.

"I just love to spread joy, spread love throughout the world," Holloway said through his glowing smile. "I feel like that's what my purpose is in life. Motivating, inspiring, making people smile, I feel like that's what I'm here to do."

Holloway lives his message every day. He even has a permanent reminder set on his phone: "Make Today a Great Day and Spread Positivity." He is active in the community, mentoring elementary school students and taking part in Gators Tracks, a long-running program that uses donated money to purchase hundreds of pairs of shoes and socks for children in need. And while he is often loud, boisterous, even borderline clown-like between practice reps, when it comes time to lock in and lead by example, he does so instantaneously.

"He's a tremendous leader," said Head Coach Mike (the two believe they could be distant cousins, tracing family back to Albany, GA). "He's a guy who lifts everybody around him."

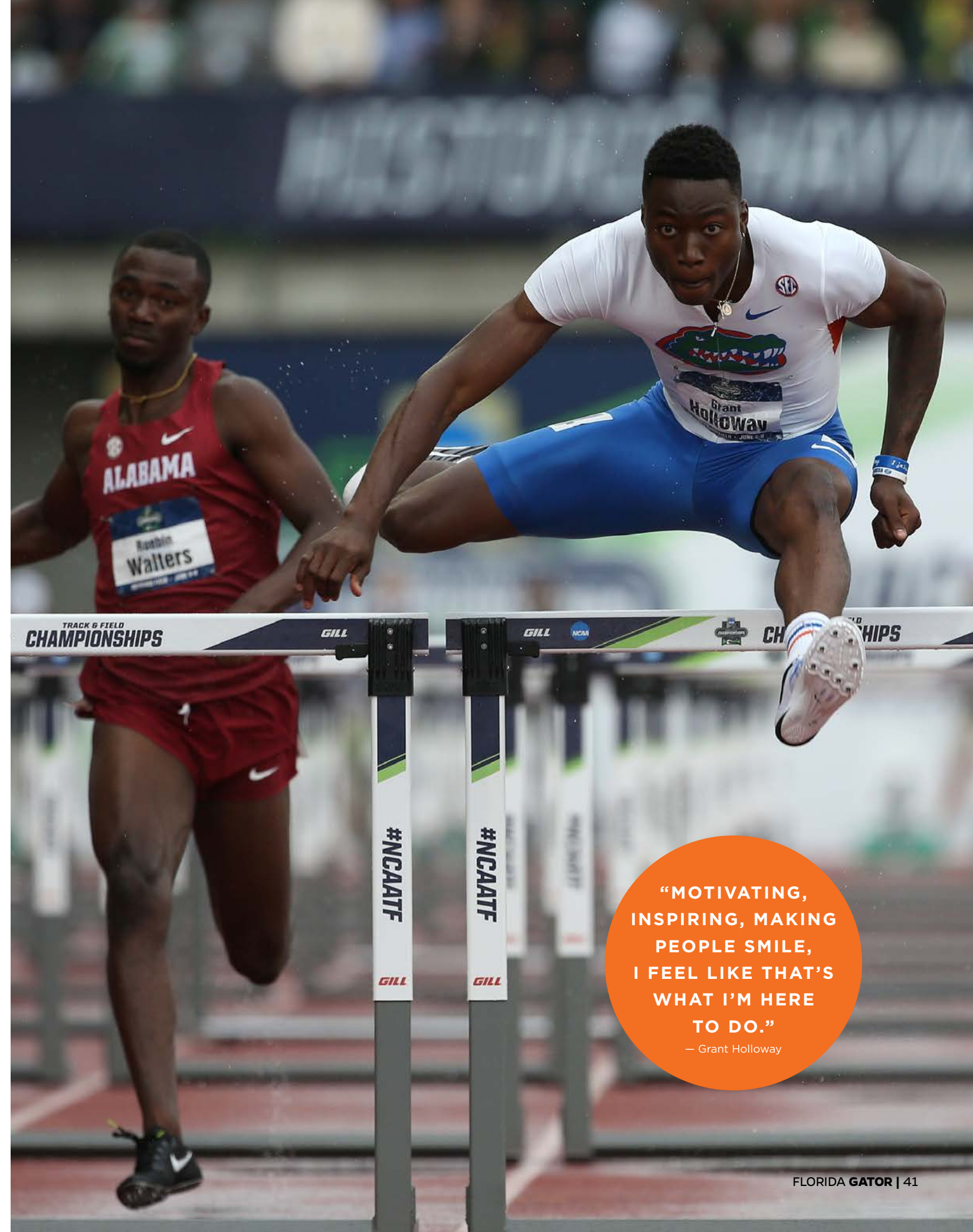
In the end, Grant was right. He did not win the trophy at the end of the night. He did, however, show his charisma and class have the power to make him an unofficial representative of Gators athletics.

The moment The Bowerman winner was announced, Holloway stood up and hugged the athlete, clapping for him the entire time as he walked onto the stage to accept the award. Even after the ceremony concluded and all the pictures were taken, Grant continued to wear his signature smile and fully engaged with anyone who wished to speak with him, doing it all with a Gators pin squarely fastened to his lapel.

"It was a very heartwarming experience," said Tasha Holloway, Grant's mother. "He's always been a people person. He's always been able to take charge of a room and just make everybody appreciate him being there. Since he's been at Florida, I've seen that grow 10 times."

Holloway won the room. For Gator Nation and those around him, that will always be more meaningful than any trophy.

— ZACH DIRLAM



"MOTIVATING,
INSPIRING, MAKING
PEOPLE SMILE,
I FEEL LIKE THAT'S
WHAT I'M HERE
TO DO."

— Grant Holloway

100 GATOR 100

UF alumni have created and guided some of the most innovative and profitable businesses in the nation and the world. The UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, is privileged to recognize these amazing entrepreneurs and honor the 100 fastest-growing Gator-owned or Gator-led businesses.

Gator100 companies have been in business for at least five years and have annual revenues of \$250,000 or more. Entries are ranked by Compound Annual Growth Rate, which is used to determine year-over-year growth over the past three years. CAGRs are determined by global accounting firm Ernst & Young, which ensures confidentiality of financial submissions and Gator100's integrity.

Congratulations, winners!



2019 GATOR100 WINNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Carroll Bradford, Inc. | 51 Therigy LLC |
| 2 Foundry Commercial | 52 Front Street Commercial Real Estate |
| 3 Greek House | |
| 4 eco Construction | 53 Activekidz and Adult Therapy |
| 5 First Florida Constructors, LLC | 54 Veteran Energy |
| 6 United Energy Services | 55 Jackson Orthodontics |
| 7 OptinMonster | 56 High Mark Construction |
| 8 Passport | 57 Abode Luxury Rentals |
| 9 Red Team Software, LLC | 58 McKenzie Construction, LLC |
| 10 ACY Contractors, LLC | 59 Acumen Wealth Advisors |
| 11 Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice | 60 SkyFrog Landscape LLC |
| 12 Orangetheory Fitness | 61 Walker Architects |
| 13 Action Equipment | 62 KAST Construction |
| 14 Power Production Management, Inc. | 63 Study Edge |
| 15 Straughn Trout Architects | 64 Fusion CPA |
| 16 Dome Headwear | 65 Frisco Family Vision |
| 17 Gast Construction Group | 66 Capital Technology, Inc. |
| 18 Embark Safety | 67 Park and Eleazer Construction, LLC |
| 19 Green Design Construction and Development | 68 Max Health |
| 20 Avant Healthcare Professionals | 69 AE Engineering, Inc. |
| 21 Construction Specialties & Design, LLC | 70 JK2 Scenic |
| 22 KVC Constructors | 71 Orchid Medical |
| 23 Paragon 28 | 72 Philotek |
| 24 Xcel Wealth Management | 73 Force Marketing |
| 25 Emerald C's Development, Inc | 74 Current Builders |
| 26 Twinkle Toes Nanny Agency | 75 Rad Wear, Inc. |
| 27 Ctrip | 76 Southeast Veterinary Neurology |
| 28 AIT Engineering | 77 Landmark Title |
| 29 J2 Solutions, Inc. | 78 Commercial Systems Group |
| 30 RVG & Company | 79 Diversified Realty Development Co. |
| 31 Social News Desk | 80 Optimum Healthcare IT |
| 32 Scorpio | 81 Search Discovery Inc. |
| 33 Chloe's Fruit | 82 Friedland Vining |
| 34 Captozyme | 83 Boggs Vickers Architects |
| 35 Macallan Real Estate | 84 Workwell Technologies |
| 36 JAX Refrigeration, Inc. | 85 JK2 Construction |
| 37 Orocon Construction, LLC | 86 Kinetix Physical Therapy |
| 38 Global Trust | 87 Member Benefits |
| 39 PHOS Creative | 88 Capaz Law Firm, P.A. |
| 40 Protean Design Group, Inc. | 89 Miller Construction Management, Inc. (MCM) |
| 41 ROI Healthcare Solutions | 90 We Insure Group |
| 42 Worth Advertising Group | 91 First Green Bank |
| 43 Awesome Motive Inc. | 92 Parisleaf |
| 44 Edge Construction USA, Inc. | 93 Vector Firm |
| 45 Amicon Management | 94 Highland Homes |
| 46 AspirEDU | 95 DeAngelis Diamond |
| 47 SKY Facial Plastic Surgery | 96 Marquis Latimer + Halback, Inc. |
| 48 Medical Care Alert | 97 Petersen Industries, Inc. |
| 49 Sarah Cain Design | 98 Zinnia Wealth Management |
| 50 JWB Real Estate Companies | 99 Tropical Smoothie Cafe |
| | 100 Blood Company |

GATORS GOING GREATER

WORKING IN THE WINGS

Over the last four years, **Cecilee Fleming** (BHS 11, PhD 14) spent Christmas in Washington D.C., Independence Day in Boston and many other holidays in major cities from sea to shining sea. Fleming merged her passion for the performing arts, health care and travel into her career as a touring physical therapist who treats performers in national productions of Broadway hits.

"I get to help other people live out their dreams, while I live out mine," said Fleming. While her work focuses on health maintenance and injury prevention, her goal is to increase each athlete's career longevity through exercises, stretching, strength training and physical therapy.

Fleming herself trained as a competitive dancer and singer for 15 years. As a child, she dreamed of performing on Broadway, and now she has the chance to contribute behind the scenes. "Every night I get to hear the show overhead, or I get to see it from the audience. It always feels special to me and I feel lucky to be a part of it all," Fleming said.

Today, Fleming is working with members of a smash hit Broadway musical. Read her blog at <https://www.neurotour.com/blog/qa-life-as-a-touring-physical-therapist>.

— JULIE WALTER



Hearing expert Dr. Marshall N'Guessan (center, orange shirt) helps Côte d'Ivoire residents improve their hearing.

A SOUND CALLING

Dr. **Marshall N'Guessan** (HHP 03) returned to his native country, Côte d'Ivoire in Africa, for a medical mission this fall. He conducted hearing screenings for almost 200 residents, of which about 30 percent had some form of hearing loss. He is working to implement newborn hearing screenings, raise awareness about hearing loss prevention and help residents get hearing aids. He plans to return in September to screen children before their school year begins.

GATOR CREATES A CYCLE OF KINDNESS

ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING. COLLECTIVE GRIEF, THEN FURY, THEN A NATIONAL CONVERSATION THAT QUICKLY TURNS DIVISIVE AND THEN, TOO OFTEN, RESIGNATION.

After all, what can one person do?

In the aftermath of the carnage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, **Robert Yormack** (BSBA '95) answered that question decisively. He couldn't travel back to Feb. 14, 2018, and stop the



teen from bringing an AR-15 to the Parkland campus and killing 17 people. But Yormack and his family could very deliberately resist the tug toward despair or indifference.

They could, as Robert Yormack (pictured above with his family) put it, "just do something nice."

That something nice — the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Scholarship in Memory of Scott Beigel — both honors a life lost and helps survivors and future UF students find a way forward.

Beigel, 35, was killed when he unlocked his classroom door during the shooting to shelter students. The geography teacher and cross-country coach had also spent 28 summers, first as a camper and then as a popular counselor, at Camp Starlight in Pennsylvania. Yormack's two teens were Camp Starlight regulars.

The first recipients of the UF scholarship are expected to be named in the spring.

"I think the whole thing is amazing," said Beigel's mother, Linda Beigel Schulman, who did not know Yormack until he approached her about the scholarship. "He thought of something positive and he made it happen. I'm so thankful to him and to UF."

Yormack is uncomfortable with accolades. "We're being supportive," he says, crediting his family with shaping the idea. "I don't think people really know how easy it is to be generous in some way."

"And maybe it allows those students to do something for the next person."

— NICOLE NEAL



THE SIXTH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF GOLDEN GATORS IS A CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY, VISION AND LEADERSHIP

By David Finnerty

WHAT DO A UF TRUSTEE, RACEHORSE BREEDERS, A FURNITURE STORE FRANCHISE OWNER AND A MARRIED COUPLE WHO MET AT A CAMPUS TALENT SHOW HAVE IN COMMON?

All are the latest inductees into one of the University of Florida's most prestigious societies: the Academy of Golden Gators. The academy honors Gators whose support and leadership are driving UF's rise to the top of the nation's best universities.

On UF Involvement:

"We believe UF is solving significant issues for people and our world. The Gator Nation always rises to lead the way, and we are grateful to be on the voyage together."



YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS AWARD

THE TALENT COUPLE

James (BSBA 91) & Elizabeth (BSA 92) Gadsby

The Gadsbys met at a UF talent show in 1989 and have been inseparable since. Together, they share a commitment to improving the lives of others. Their alma mater is one of their favorite ways to do that. The couple is especially generous when it comes to scholarships and endowments for students and professors.

On Giving to UF:

"I hope Irene and I can play a small part in young men and women attaining their goals and aspirations."



LIFETIME PHILANTHROPY AWARD

THE RACEHORSE BREEDERS

Don and Irene Disney

Most Gators recognize the Disney name from the campus lacrosse stadium that bears the family's moniker. Owners of an Ocala horse breeding, boarding and training farm, their contributions go far beyond the stadium, however. The Disneys — whose children David (84-85) and Danielle (MSNSG 08) attended UF — support a long list of campus programs.

Advice to Alumni:

"When the university asks, just say, 'yes.' Get involved, whatever you can do. Give some money, whatever you can afford. You'll find you get more out of it than you put into it."



LIFETIME VOLUNTEER AWARD

THE FRANCHISER

Keith Koenig (BSBA 73, MBA '5)

For Koenig, his college choice was never a question. UF was where he and his high school buddies had decided to go, sight unseen. Five decades later he's still committed to UF, where the now president of City Furniture has served on an array of councils and boards, including the presidential search team that brought Kent Fuchs to Gainesville.

Role in UF's Ascent:

"I'm just one small piece to a really big puzzle. There are a lot of folks who have made [UF's rise] possible."



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

THE TRUSTEE

Rahul Patel (BA 94, JD 97)

As a student, one of Patel's activities involved working on UF's Preview team to help incoming freshmen and transfers navigate their new school. So it made sense that he would continue his goodwill toward The Gator Nation after graduation. During Patel's service to UF, he's been president of the Alumni Association and a university trustee.

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I'M A GATOR

DR. WILLIAM SLATTERY III CAN NOW ADD ACTOR TO HIS EXTENSIVE RESUME.

His film debut came after one of his patients, actor and director Bradley Cooper, sought his advice about noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus for a subplot of his movie, "A Star is Born."

"[Cooper] wanted to get it right," says Slattery, who thought nothing more of Cooper's inquiry. A few weeks later, Cooper called Slattery again. This time, he asked his doctor to appear in the film as the main character's ear doctor.

"I said, 'Bradley, I'm not an actor; I'm a surgeon.'"

After Cooper assured him and suggested he "just be himself," Slattery and his wife drove to Coachella, a few hours outside of Los Angeles, to film the segment.

"It was an amazing experience," Slattery says, adding that his 10-second clip took an hour and a half to shoot. Afterward, Slattery stayed to watch the filming of other scenes from the producer's pit.

An internationally recognized otologist who holds several board appointments, honors, awards and seven patents for hearing-related devices and processes, Slattery says it is unlikely he'll appear on-screen again soon.

"When I think about it, I starred between one of Hollywood's leading men and one of the world's greatest singers [Lady Gaga] and I'm not sure that my acting career can go up from there," says a lighthearted Slattery. "So, I'll stick with my day job as an ear surgeon for now."



DR. WILLIAM SLATTERY
(HS 92, HS 93)

President, House Clinic in Los Angeles;
Physician and surgeon, House Ear Clinic;
Clinical professor of Otolaryngology at
the University of Southern California
and UCLA; Cofounder and CEO of
O'Ray Pharma Inc.

— RENEE ZEMANSKI



BLACK ALUMNI REUNION CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

MORE THAN 175 UF ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ALUMNI (ABA) MEMBERS RETURNED TO GAINESVILLE Nov. 2-4 to celebrate at the organization's 25th annual reunion. The event was complete with a business meeting, champagne brunch and pre-game tailgate. Attendees included graduates from the early 1960s up through the class of 2018, who combined to make the reunion's biggest tailgate attendance yet, said ABA President Yvonne Hinson (BAEd 71, MEd 72) of Gainesville.

At the reunion, Vince and Valerie Green, parents of UF Student Government President Ian Green, presented the ABA with a \$100,000 scholarship endowment and challenged alumni to pledge nearly \$50,000 more in donations.

The ABA awarded scholarships — two at \$1,000, one at \$750 and one at \$500 — to Nyla White, Romae Morgan, Johann Carelus and Cy-Ann Small, respectively.



Ian Green updated attendees on one of the ABA's goals: the creation of Bridges, UF Student Government's minority outreach program to increase black student enrollment rates over the next decade.

Fort Lauderdale attorney Yolanda Cash Jackson urged members to support both the ABA and UF to further its goals.

Quentin Morgan, Richard Allen, Nicole Cuthbertson, Staci Golden and Robyn Hankerson were recognized for their leadership, philanthropy and achievement in their communities.

Hinson said the 2019 reunion plans have already begun. It promises to be "even more rewarding" with the grand

opening of the new Institute for Black Culture this fall, as well as the new Green scholarship endowment, which "spurred a new movement of giving."

— SCOTTIE ANDREW

GRAND GUARD REUNION 2018

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN 1968 DIDN'T CLOSELY RESEMBLE UF TODAY:

Female students followed strictly enforced curfews. Men and women alike were subject to dress codes. And almost none of the buildings on campus were air-conditioned.

Despite its differences, one thing's remained the same: UF students' steadfast love and commitment to their university.

At the 2018 Grand Guard Reunion, alumni celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation in a weekend hosted by the UF Alumni Association, complete with breakfast, behind-the-scenes tours and a tailgate before a Gator football victory.

At the Breakfast of Memories, alumni stood and shared some of their favorite moments from their time as undergraduates, while others confessed to decades-old pranks.

"Do you remember the dorms being toilet-papered? That was me!" joked Karen Koegel (BAE 68) of Gainesville.

Grand Guard initiates were invited to tour the Butterfly Rainforest housed at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Hernandez Hall, the newly constructed chemistry research facility, or backstage at the Phillips Center.

At the Grand Guard induction ceremony, President Kent Fuchs, joined by UF Alumni Association executive director Matt Hodge, welcomed the alumni home and thanked them for laying the groundwork for UF's current success.

"I hope that we preserve what you loved about this university, and I hope we've built on that," he told attendees. "We certainly wouldn't have been able to come this far without your support, and without your loyalty, and without your love for this university."

— SCOTTIE ANDREW



REUNION CHAIRS JANICE AND BILL CARR



PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON DAVE AND BRAD MCCLERNY

THE GATOR CLUB® NETWORK



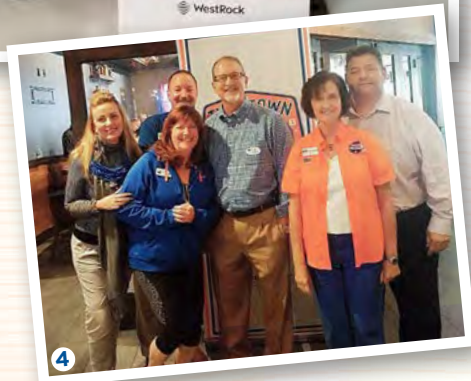
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(1) In conjunction with the Southeastern Conference, the **DC Gator Club**® provided gifts to Toys for Tots. Members are pictured here delivering toys to their local Fire Station No. 1.

(2) One of the **DC Gator Club's**® speakers this year was (center) **Kristen Berset-Harris** (BSTEL 03), host of "Great Day Washington," on CBS affiliate WUSA 9. Pictured with her are club vice president Todd Thompson, club photographer April Taylor and other club members.

(3) These **DC Gator Club**® officers, young alumni vice president **Matthew Hoeck** (BA 16) and vice president **Todd Thompson** (BA 01), joined a delegation of UF Student Government representatives on their annual visit to Capitol Hill this fall.

(4) The **Titelown Gator Club**® in Gainesville hosted 150 alumni and fans for an event with UF Ambassador **Steve Spurrier** (BSPE '81) in August. After the Head Ball Coach's presentation, the club recognized its 2018 scholarship winners. In October, Mark Wise (center), college basketball analyst for ESPN and the Gator Radio Network, visited.

(5) Members of the **Martin County, Treasure Coast, Space Coast and Palm Beach Gator Clubs**® attended their first Family Gator Night back in 2017 at First Data Field in Port St. Lucie. The group had fun cheering for Tim Tebow (BSA 09) when he played for the St. Lucie Mets.



6



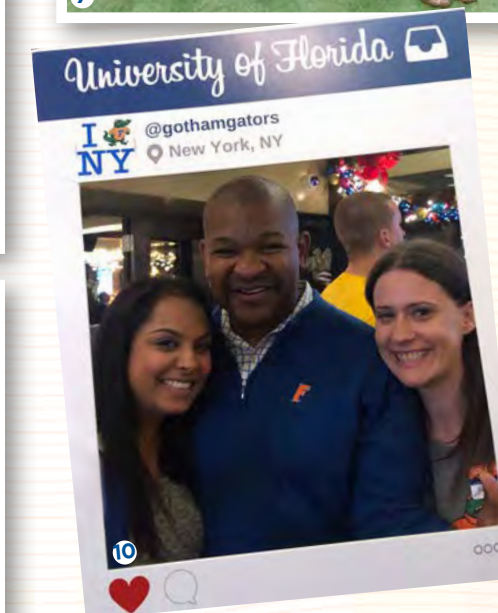
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(6) The **Knoxville Gator Club**® held their annual picnic and cornhole tournament to raise funds for the club's scholarship fund.

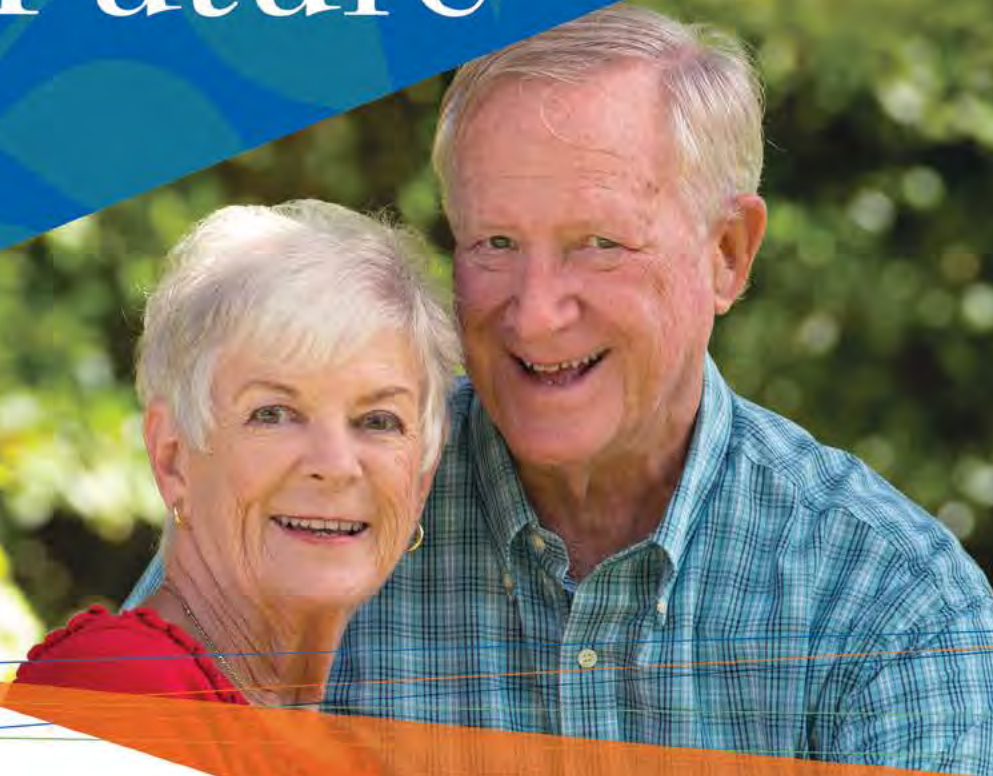
(7) (L to R) **Atlanta Gator Club**® secretary **Karrah Hammock** (BA 08), UF Alumni Association President **Brian Burgoon** (BA 94, JD 97) and club vice president of outreach **Allicia Salomon** (BA 94) visited Mercedes Benz Stadium, home of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United stadium.

(8) More than 50 members of the **Southern California Gator Club**® attended the Florida vs. Charleston Southern basketball game watching party this fall. The Gators won 76-46.

(9) More than 70 St. Louis **Gateway Gator Club**® members attended this fall's opening football game watching party.

(10) The **Gotham Gators** welcomed over 200 alumni for a pre-game happy before heading over to Madison Square Garden to cheer on the men's basketball team in the Jimmy V Classic vs West Virginia. From left to right (Chilka Patel, Scott Francis, Kimberly Schneider)

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CONNECTIONS

MAKING HISTORY

On Jan. 8, **Nikki Fried** (BA 98, MA 03, JD 03) of Miami became Florida's first woman and first Jewish Agricultural Commissioner. As a special favor to Fried, UF's Price Library of Judaica loaned her the first Hebrew Bible printed in America (Philadelphia, 1814) for her swearing-in ceremony. Fried replaces outgoing commissioner and fellow Gator **Adam Putnam** (BS 95).



BULLARD LEADS BOWLS

Tampa native and former Gator football star (1996-2000) **Thaddeus Bullard** (BA 00), aka World Wrestling Entertainment star Titus O'Neil, served as chair of the 2018 Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl executive committee. The Dec. 20 bowl game ended with a 38-20 victory for Marshall University over the University of Central Florida.

The Gasparilla Bowl collaborated with Bullard's Family Foundation and its Joy of Giving program to facilitate community initiatives in the Tampa Bay area prior to the bowl game. Bullard's foundation strives to provide families and children everywhere with moments, programs and resources that help build character and improve outcomes.

In addition to his role with the Gasparilla Bowl, Bullard was on hand for the Gators' coin toss at the 2018 Peach Bowl in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. As an honorary game captain, he accompanied senior offensive lineman Martez Ivey (4 LAS) to centerfield.



Professional wrestler and former Gator football standout Thaddeus Bullard (BA 00) of Tampa participated in UF's 2019 Peach Bowl pre-game activities.



GATOR GOES NORTH

Fewer than 40 people per year attempt the trans-Arctic ice crossing that leads to the North Pole. **Harvey E. Oyer III** (BA 90, JD 98) joined that select group in 2018 when he cross-country skied there this year.

Oyer, a partner in the legal firm Shutts & Bowen's West Palm Beach office, his four team members and a guide launched their adventure from Norway, flew to Russia's Camp Barneo and then dropped from a helicopter onto a moving ice sheet at approximately 89 degrees north latitude. Oyer admitted the trip was a "gamble."

"Because of the constantly moving ice sheets, open water and extreme weather, no matter how prepared you are, there is no guarantee that you will make it," he said.

The team skied 12 hours-a-day while pulling a 100-pound supply sled in -40°F weather. Oyer says the movement of the floating ice cap played in their favor.

"We drifted a little closer to the pole every night," Oyer said. "We made the pole in seven days instead of the average of 12 days."

"There is a lot of beauty, but there is also a barrenness to it," Oyer recalls of the northern landscape. "For miles, there were no animals, no movement and no color. Then suddenly you see a 25-foot glacier of the bluest blue."

On April 20, after crossing pressure ridges, ice rubble and the open Arctic Ocean, the group reached 90 degrees north. While it was physically and mentally demanding, Oyer says the trip was worth it to stand on the top of our planet.

— RENEE ZEMANSKI



CITRUS INDUSTRY THANKS GATOR

Tim Hurner (HS 65, HS 76) of Seabring is the newest member of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. The

former UF/IFAS extension agent for Highlands County spent decades as director of the Citrus Institute at Florida Southern College and as the 4-H Youth Agent in that county. In the Lakeland Ledger newspaper, Hurner said his proudest accomplishment is "helping educate students," whether young schoolchildren, master's or doctoral candidates. He is still a certified crop adviser and "continues to consult with growers on occasion."

MINOR LEAGUE SHOT

Sports Management alumna **Claudia Davis** (BSSPM 18) has joined the Charleston, S.C., RiverDogs minor league baseball team's front office as a box office sales rep. Her journey through the minor leagues already includes stints with the Miami Marlins and St. Lucie Mets. She is from Orlando.

IN PURSUIT OF GUILT-FREE SWEETS

Triathlete and investment banker **Todd Hoffman** (BSBA 02, MS 03) believed so much in his cousin's concept to develop a naturally sweet ice pop that he joined the company in 2011 and became its CFO. What's more, in 2018 Chloe's Fruit pops earned a top 10 spot on the Gator 100 list, which honors the 100 fastest-growing Gator-owned or Gator-led businesses in the world. The pops can be found at Publix supermarkets and other retailers.



GATOR INVENTS NEW CONTACT LENS

Sam Popwell (MS 09, PhD 12) and his scientist teammates received Johnson & Johnson's highest corporate award, the Johnson Medal, in November for developing the ACUVUE OASYS 1-Day with HydraLuxe Technology contact lens. He lives in Jacksonville.

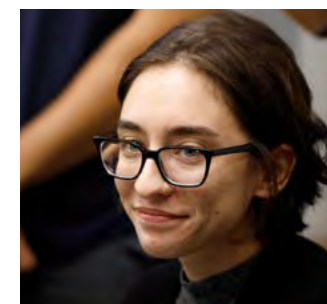
GATOR LEADS PRODUCE INDUSTRY

Members of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association elected **Mike Joyner** (BSAg 86) president in October. His experience is vast, having recently served for eight years as assistant commissioner of agriculture and chief of staff for Florida's Agriculture Commissioner **Adam Putnam** (BSAg 95). Joyner also worked in public affairs and environmental affairs posts for The St. Joe Company, Progress Energy (now Duke Energy) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

"There are challenges ahead for agriculture, which means that advocacy is more important than ever," Joyner said.

ALUMNA SET TO STUDY IN ISRAEL

Lara Alqasem (BA 18, BA 18) made international news in October when she won an Israeli Supreme Court case allowing her to enter that country. Ben-Gurion Airport security detained Alqasem upon her arrival in Tel Aviv Oct. 2 when officers learned through one of her social media accounts that she had once led a UF student club, Students for Justice in Palestine. Officers claimed her participation in the club precluded her admission to the country per a new Israeli law that bans leadership from organizations that promote Israeli-boycotting activities. High court members said they ruled in Alqasem's favor for two reasons: the Israeli Consulate in Miami approved her student visa; and justices doubted her dedication to anti-Israel activities since she had come to attend Hebrew University.



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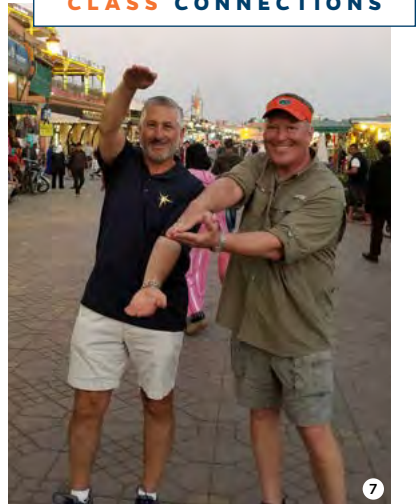
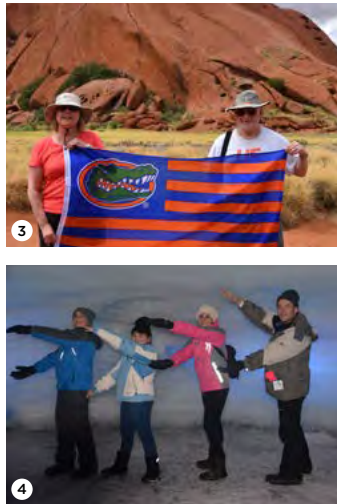


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Around the World

01 Kendra Williams (BA 10) chomps while vacationing and visiting family in Belize City, Belize.

02 Diane Alterman Hatcher (JM 73) showed her Gator pride while on her trip to Iceland.

This spring, **Joan** (BAE 64) and **Chris Ptachik** (BSEE 65) took their Gator flag down under to Ayers Rock in the Australian outback.

(L to R) **Philip, Alexandra, Glennys** (JD 01) and **Stefan Rubin** (BSAC 96, JD 99) traveled to Iceland to see Europe's second-largest glacier, Langjökull.

Gator "wolf pack" **Geoff** (BS 90, MD 93, HS 96) and **Laura Wolf** (BS 90, MD 93, HS 97) and their children Kyle, Emma, Sarah, **Adam** (1BA) and **Rachel** (4LAS) try to stay warm in Iceland.

Gary and Jean Krupinski, proud parents of Gator **Andrew Krupinski** (BSA 17), went to Dubrovnik, Croatia this spring and showed their Gator pride at the Dubrovnik City walls.

Orlando mayor **Buddy Dyer** (JD 87) and St. Petersburg mayor **Rick Kriseman** (BSBR 84) share their Gator spirit in a souk (market) in Marrakech, Morocco.

Vanessa Begat (BSE 09) chomps in front of the Franz Josef glacier in New Zealand.

Eric Heinrich (BSCE 79) and his wife, Karen, show their Gator pride in Murmansk, Russia, next to the first nuclear-powered icebreaker.

Adriana Reyes (BSA 11) traveled among local wildlife in Mfuwe, Zambia.

In all kinds of weather, the Morrissey family stuck together in Loveland, Colo. (L-R) **John P. Morrissey** (BSBA 86), **Ryan Morrissey** (4PHHP), **John M. Morrissey** (4PHHP) and Deb-by Morrissey.

Scott (BA 78) and **Maureen Pierce** (BA 78) show their Gator pride at the Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's Atlantic coast.

Brett Amron (BSBA 95) and **Steven Rosenwasser** (BSBA 95) display their Gator flag atop Machu Picchu in Peru.

Bob Jaye (BA 83) admires the Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's Atlantic coast.

Robert Dowd (BSBA 81) and his wife Maribeth Krupczak took an escorted 10-day tour of Morocco, including Rabat, Marrakech, Fes, Erfoud and Casablanca.

Adam Vosding (BA 01) chomps with Dos Equis' front man, the most interesting man in the world, in Tampa, Florida.

Tito Ronchetta (BABA 05) and his wife, Valeria, visited the Isla Cies off the coast of Vigo, Spain.

Southern California Gator Club member **Ryan Chernet** (BSBA 03)



Welcome New Life Members!

Life Member Benefits: With a UFAA Life Membership, never pay dues again with a one-time, tax-deductible gift to UF; gain express entry into our Gator Nation Tailgates and enjoy added benefits throughout the year. The following list of Gators reflect new Life Members paid in full as of Feb. 15, 2019.



ROBERT CRISAFI (PhD 56)
Retired serial entrepreneur and patient safety advocate

His career includes numerous contributions that reduced medication error rates in hospitals nationwide, such as unit-dose cups for liquid medications and bar code scanning at patients' bedsides. He founded 12 successful healthcare companies and is a fervent supporter of UF College of Pharmacy students, faculty and medication safety programs. He also started the Crisafi Challenge, an annual matching program at UF Pharmacy to fund scholarships that recruit the best and brightest students.

Atlanta Gator Club*
Marissa B. Baron 03
Robert J. Beach 17
Gary L. File 70
Abdul R. Ghalayini 88
Sue E. Hauptert-Johnson 83 & Allen L. Johnson 85
James C. Hoover 59
Chris D. Killingsworth 01
Jennifer S. Leak 90
Marybeth Palmer
Mark A. Popkin 78
John J. Scroggin 74 & Lynn Geiger-Scroggin 75

Baltimore Gator Club*
Mitchell B. Herbert 01
Jason R. Hsu 17
Katrina G. Lopez 05

Big Lake Gator Club*
Charles B. Syfrett 69 & Linda T. Syfrett 70

Bluegrass Gator Club*
Vivian Ruth Sawyer & Tom Noland

Broward County Gator Club*
Dylan T. Abeles 17
Mark C. Brunt 99 & Tassia N. Brunt 98
Judson Cone 92
Stephanie A. Cruz 16
Philip A. Duvalsaint 93
Jennifer Y. Guerrant 06
John P. Holgerson 17
Sean P. Lorey 08
Santiago G. Marquez
Shawn T. Pariaug 01
Kenneth A. Perkins 63
Lois B. Perkins 59
John F. Schmatz 74
Richard A. Young, Jr. 94 & Jun W. Young

Capital Area Gator Club*
Gabrielle G. Cannella
Glenn R. Hosken 69
John P. Mahoney 70 & Barbara P. Mahoney

Central Florida Gator Club*
Anne S. Abeel 71
Kerrianne P. Arnold 14
Wendy M. Asher 90 & Dean Asher
William P. Battaglia 72
Lorena G. Dunlap 59
Kristen J. Giambruno 13
LaShawnda K. Jackson 99
Arthur W. Johnson 68 & Sandra H. Johnson
Blake E. Johnson 13
Beth G. King 80
Noel Mier, Jr. 04
James L. Moore 99
Fernando A. Nin & Poonam D. Patel 08
James F. Page, Jr. 72
Luke R. Pompos 18

Christopher L. Strojie
Lawrence W. Tyree 66 & Kathleen A. Plinske 12
Nathan J. Weber 95 & Amy L. Weber 96
Lauren R. Zilka 15

Charlotte Gator Club*
Peyton C. Kruger

Cincinnati Gator Club*
Carol A. Sanger 70

Citrus County Gator Club*
Sydney A. Bennett
John A. Colasanti, Jr. 09
John E. Marmish, Jr. 67
Joseph Mattingly & Linda Mattingly
Abbagail D. Smith

Clay County Gator Club*
James H. Davie, II 72 & Christine M. Davie

Connecticut Gator Club*
Elizabeth Hole 96

Dallas/Fort Worth Gator Club*
Joan F. Carroll 92 & Benny F. Vaughn 85

Emerald Coast Gator Club*
Donna M. Barton 79 & Douglas C. Barton
Frank Sedmera, Jr. 66
Gerald R. Wolsfelt 65

Gateway Gator Club*
William J. Newman 01 & Brianne M. Newman

Gator Club* of Historic St. Augustine
John F. Fraser 76 & Danielle E. Fraser
Sharen W. Halsall 85 & Gerald H. Halsall 59
Kimberly R. Loferski 90
Zachary T. Murta
Rene K. Naughton 72 & Peter H. Naughton
Tate C. Reed
James R. Robbins
Emma Sims
William E. Snyder, Jr. 70 & Catherine H. Snyder 70
Sydney L. Van Dyke
Allison P. Wenzel
Kerry L. Whitaker 93
Stephen C. Wilkinson

Gator Club* of Jacksonville
Allison K. Archer 13
Jim Bentley 70 & Carol H. Bentley
Valerie C. Bouchelle & Howard P. Bouchelle, Jr.
Michaele C. Bradford 07
Patricia M. Calhoun 89 & Arthur Mosley
Virginia E. Cooksey

Amber R. Duke 07
Matthew E. Edelman 75
Michelle L. Freeman 92
Daniel C. Heckman, III 12
David Klusmeier
Chrystal R. Lewos 95
Tyrone B. McCloud 98
Jessica N. Pelkowski 14
Jake Schickel 70 & Carol B. Schickel 70
Benjamin C. Smith 11 & Michele G. Smith 12
James E. Wilkerson, Jr. 94

Gator Club* of Miami
Maryam L. Borrego 09
Ana M. Cantero 83
James C. Cunningham, Jr. 76
Clifford J. Dropkin 73
Dori B. Foster-Morales 89 & Jimmy L. Morales
David K. Friedland 85
Joanna Garcia 06
Guillermo T. Gonzalez 14
Ronald N. Magill 80 & Rita Magill
William S. Moser 55
Erik L. Myers 94 & Jana L. Myers 94
Maria E. Perez-Zarraga 77 & Daniel F. Perez-Zarraga 75
Victor R. Robles, Jr. 07
Linda S. Schwartz 67
Scot Strems 03

Gator Club* of Naples
Jack I. Schechter 85

Gotham Gator Club*
Lauren K. Brown 16
Angela A. Buonocore 78
Lisa B. Davis 98 & Paul A. Davis
Adam G. Harpool 08
Peter Liao 96
George R. Noorigian 68

Greater Richmond Gator Club*
Elizabeth R. Krentzman 85

Hampton Roads Gator Club*
Isabella K. Mock
Michael A. Toone 94

Houston Gator Club*
Mustapha Beydoun 92
Drew C. Bulawa
Elizabeth V. Eversole 17
Penelope E. Morrison 77
James J. Sandy, III 80 & Bobette B. Sandy
Philip M. Tenenbaum 78 & Donna L. Tenenbaum 78

Indy Gator Club*
Lynda L. Hazlett 84

Kansas City Gator Club*
Jodi P. Izzo 01

Knoxville Gator Club*
Richard Sardo 76

Lake County Gator Club*
Victoria E. Lucas 09
Richard D. Saporita 62

Las Vegas Gator Club*
Robert C. Anderson 73
Kelly Dunn

Lone Star Gator Club*
Andre R. Clark 16
Trent M. Fields 15
Robert J. Pillmore 69
Douglas B. Smith 61

Manatee County Gator Club*
Kylie M. Marcinkiewicz
Shelby J. Smith 17

Marion County Gator Club*
Laura K. Chappell
Mark A. Jank & Sharon Jank

Martin County Gator Club*
Maxmilian A. Koessick 04
& Cassandra M. Koessick
Teena-Louise M. White 10

Music City Gator Club*
Rick Scarola 82

New England Gator Club*
Robert C. Crisafi 56
Stephen O. Heard 84
Matthew W. Orrell 96

New Orleans Gator Club*
Michael D. Postoll 11 & April B. Postoll
Muthithar A. Vinson 97

North Florida Gator Club*
Deborah N. Eadie 79
Donna J. Ellerkamp 11

Northwest Florida Gator Club*
David B. Aronson 52
Danica M. Bardin 11
Larry M. Bowyer 69
Bradley A. Leuchtman 13
Eric L. Schwartz 17

Palm Beach County Gator Club*
Rachel H. Berg 97
Marc V. Bongiovi 97 & Mollie J. Bongiovi 96
Alisa B. Cohen 78 & Richard Cohen
Andrew R. Comiter 03 & Pamela M. Comiter 07
Kelsey R. Cote 17
Kenneth J. Folsom 72
Jordan K. Gableman 18
Alex J. Hernicz 16
James A. Macaluso 89
Gabriele Rossi Lemeni
Makedon 17
David L. Roth 68 & Paula Peterson-Roth

Randall M. Shochet 86
Martin H. Stern 61 & Kathy Stern
Patrick R. Thume & Casey Thume
Anthony R. Zaleski

Pasco County Gator Club*
Brian J. Acosta 17
Christopher K. Gordon 06 & Ashley K. Gordon 07
Kevin C. Hilberth 05 & Jennifer L. Hilberth 06

Philadelphia Gator Club*
Julia A. Collins
Alexandra E. Stanton

Pinellas County Gator Club*
Patricia M. Castellano 92
John R. Cone, III 58
Lauren R. Connors 15
Michelle P. Curtis 87
Daniel V. DiLoreto 66 & Elaine M. DiLoreto
Miranda D. Ferguson
Michael P. Halpin
Nikitas N. Manias 74 & Aspasia Haskopoulos-Manias
Connolly C. McArthur 96 & James C. McArthur
Diane H. Minnix 78
Elizabeth A. Moraguez 14 & Michael R. Moraguez 14

Polk County Gator Club*
Katie A. May 10
Robert W. Sim 66 & Maureen M. Sim
Michelle J. Taunton 84

Portland Gator Club*
Carley T. Fiedell 01
Adeline D. Fournet 16 & Russell W. Winkel 15

Putnam County Gator Club*
Susan K. Chappell 95 & Thomas E. Chappell, Jr.
Tito S. Smith 72

Rocky Mountain Gator Club*
Charles T. Dwyer 90 & Mary E. Dwyer 89
Robert J. Sabis 15
Lindsay L. Schoettinger 03
Michael G. Sutherland 05

Royal Dutch Gator Club*
Margerit F. Bijsterbosch 02

Sacramento Gator Club*
Richard W. Dallas 71
Pamela A. Stone 92 & Erik Wienert

San Francisco Bay Area Gator Club*
James M. De Buizer 95
Randall S. Glein 88 & Sharon Glein
Arnold J. Goldberg 90 & Lisa Goldberg

Charles T. Kung 86 & Lisa M. Guerra

Sarasota County Gator Club*
Jason A. Collier 00 & Mary T. Collier 00
David W. Elsheimer 02
Jonathan C. Gordon 66
Alden J. Jones 15
Mortimer M. Labes
Robin O. Oegerle 73 & William R. Oegerle 72
Meredith F. Swift

Savannah Gator Club*
M. Jill Lockwood 69

Seattle Gator Club*
Matthew C. Dubois 00
Harold R. Rubin

Southern California Gator Club*
Sara Forouhar 07
Deanna N. Shumaker 05
April S. Worsdell 96

Southwest Florida Gator Club*
Erik W. Benson 96
Corey J. Berner 14
Stefanie W. Cutshall 94 & Paul L. Cutshall, Jr. 92
Ben B. Korbly 68 & Mary B. Korbly 70
Madison S. Wunderlich

Space Coast Gator Club*
Herbert F. Coard, IV 18
Douglas L. Dial, Sr. 75
Elizabeth D. Dittmer
Deborah M. Lombard 84
Cameron Matos
Trinity A. Turinetti

Steel Gator Club*
Richard L. Boswell, II & Regina A. Boswell
Albert L. Wright, Jr. 04

Tampa Gator Club*
Brianna R. Carlisle
Julia H. Cogburn 96 & Matthew R. Cogburn 99
Stephen A. Crane 71 & Nancy B. Crane
Thomas Elligett, Jr. 75 & Cheryl E. Elligett
Sean L. Fillingham
Allison R. Fritz
Christopher Massengill
Domingo A. Mercado 17
Christopher D. Mercer 98
Ryan D. Murtagh 96 & Paige A. Murtagh 98
Carol B. Nordquist 93 & Bradley B. Nordquist
Keely N. Orselli 14
Christine T. Panganiban 95 & Rudolfo A. Panganiban, Jr. 92

Jeremy N. Selbst 02 & Megan L. Selbst 00
Scott G. Taylor
Robert P. Wolfson, Jr. 84
John T. Wynn, II 11

Titletown Gator Club*
Julie A. Berthy 01 & Brent A. Berthy 87
Sophia F. Bracken
Gordon S. Burleson, Jr. 62 & Janet V. Burleson
Michael B. Canlas 16
Judith A. Crews & Henry A. Crews
Michele N. Dill
Gene S. Elliott & Sherry W. Elliott
Macey E. Entrekin
Filiz N. Erenguc 05
Richard S. Farwell 64 & Sybil M. Farwell 65
Michael F. Foley 70 & Suzette J. Foley
Antonio N. Garcia 95 & Lisa M. Garcia 95
Patricia A. Hamilton 99 & Andrew R. Hamilton
Lanie R. Hibbs
Jaron L. Jones 15
Nicky J. Jones 16
Cassandra P. Kuhn
Debra S. Logeson
Nathan W. Logeson
Marilyn E. Mahon
Linda E. Manning 70
Michael T. Massengill 18
Chelsea W. Maxwell 14
Josiah McLaughlin
Jonathan H. McWhorter
Richard G. Miller
Kimberley B. Mowery 96 & Arthur J. Mowery, Jr. 91
Alexandra G. Mueller
Savannah S. Patterson
Suzannah E. Patterson
Syleena A. Powell
Yalu Qiao 17
Joanne Rockwood & Donald L. Rockwood
Krisanne Russell-Vann 95 & Steven R. Vann 97
Scott M. Ryals 13 & Sara R. Ryals 03
Sally E. Ryden
Mary M. Saussy
Charles B. Sewell 13
Tabitha A. Sparks 09 & Jason F. Sparks
James R. Tyger 10
Karen J. Walker 92 & William H. Marquardt
John R. Wallace 15
Richard E. Weinstein 84
Mary Wells-Prine 73

Treasure Coast Gator Club*
Michael J. Garavaglia, III 18
Harry Schindehette, Jr. 66
Andrew K. Treadwell 03 & Kathryn N. Treadwell 04
Matthew C. Utter

Triad Gator Club*
Stan A. Shuman

Triangle Gator Club*
Glen A. Watford 79

Upstate Gator Club*
Mary Jane Durrell 55
Paula H. Hinger 76
William Southerland, Jr. 03 & Meghan Southerland

Volusia County Gator Club*
Jeri L. Francoeur 86
Mori Hosseini & Forough Hosseini
Matthew P. Klippel
Emili P. Mellor
Scott F. Weiss 72 & Karen Weiss

Washington DC Gator Club*
Shaina O. Amienyi 08
Veronica Meinhard 93
Joseph T. Palaganas 88
Benjamin J. Rosenbaum 05
Thomas J. Street, Jr. 71
Douglas J. White, Jr. 11
William A. Ziegler 92

Windy City Gator Club*
Janelle F. Czapar 17

No Gator Club* Affiliation
George Y. Antoniadis 09
Jason M. Brydges 95 & Lisa G. Brydges
Mirta A. Carter 06
Robert M. Causey 95 & Jonna W. Causey 95
Anne W. Fernandez 81
Mary V. Fisher 67 & Allan R. Fisher
Karen W. Hodges 73
Charles R. King 57
Ryan A. Loundy 09
Jeffrey T. Nkansah 06
Sara S. Polisuk 03
Rachel P. Ray 93
Spencer A. Rygas 95
John B. Steele 01 & Heather Edwards-Steele 01
Gary L. Stone & Lorraine M. French 81



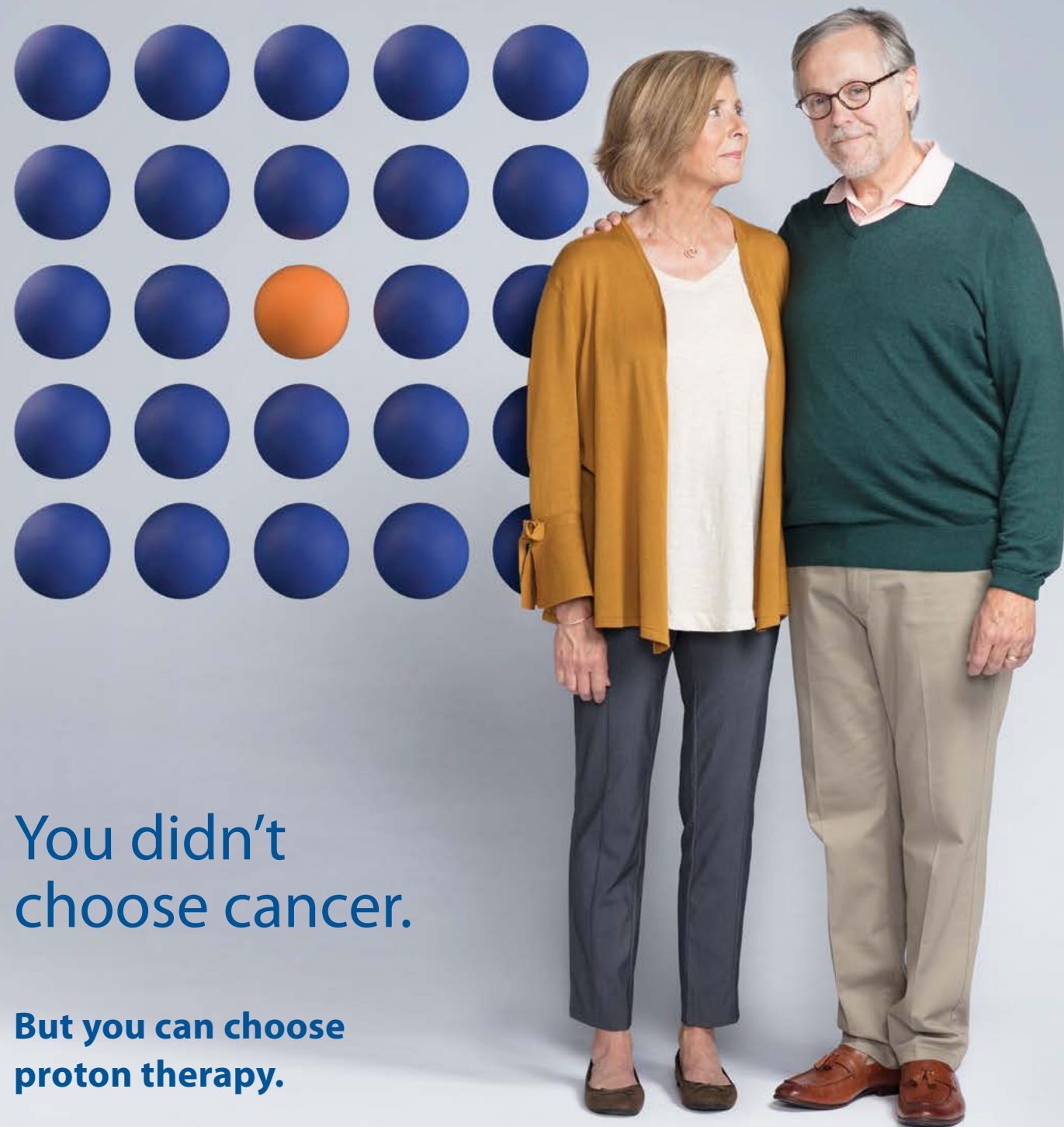
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UF Student Body President, 2004-05
UF Hall of Fame, 2005

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THEN & NOW



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THE CARILLON TOLLS FOR THEE

FROM THE TOP OF CENTURY TOWER OVERLOOKING CAMPUS, UF's carillon tolls the hours, half hours and quarter hours. Its cast bells are also played by a handful of students on special occasions and holidays, such as this fall when one carillonneur treated listeners to select pieces from "Phantom of the Opera" during the lunch hour. This year marks the carillon's 40th anniversary. The drawing below reflects an early tower design. However, a lack of funds led to today's streamlined version.

INSTALLED: Nov. 3, 1956

GIFT: A.D. Davis and J.E. Davis, two of the four sons who built the successful Winn-Dixie Food Stores chain from their father's company, paid for the original 47 cast bells (\$199,545 in 1978) in honor of their parents Milton and Ethel Davis.

TOTAL BELLS: 61, the largest cast-bell carillon in Florida

RANGE: Four octaves plus one note

HEIGHT: Bells hang about 157 feet above ground

LARGEST BELL: A sharp, almost 70 inches wide, 3 ½ tons

SMALLEST BELL: High C, 8 9/16 inches wide, 31 pounds

INSCRIPTION: On the largest bell, "Call together those who are studious of all good things both human and divine"

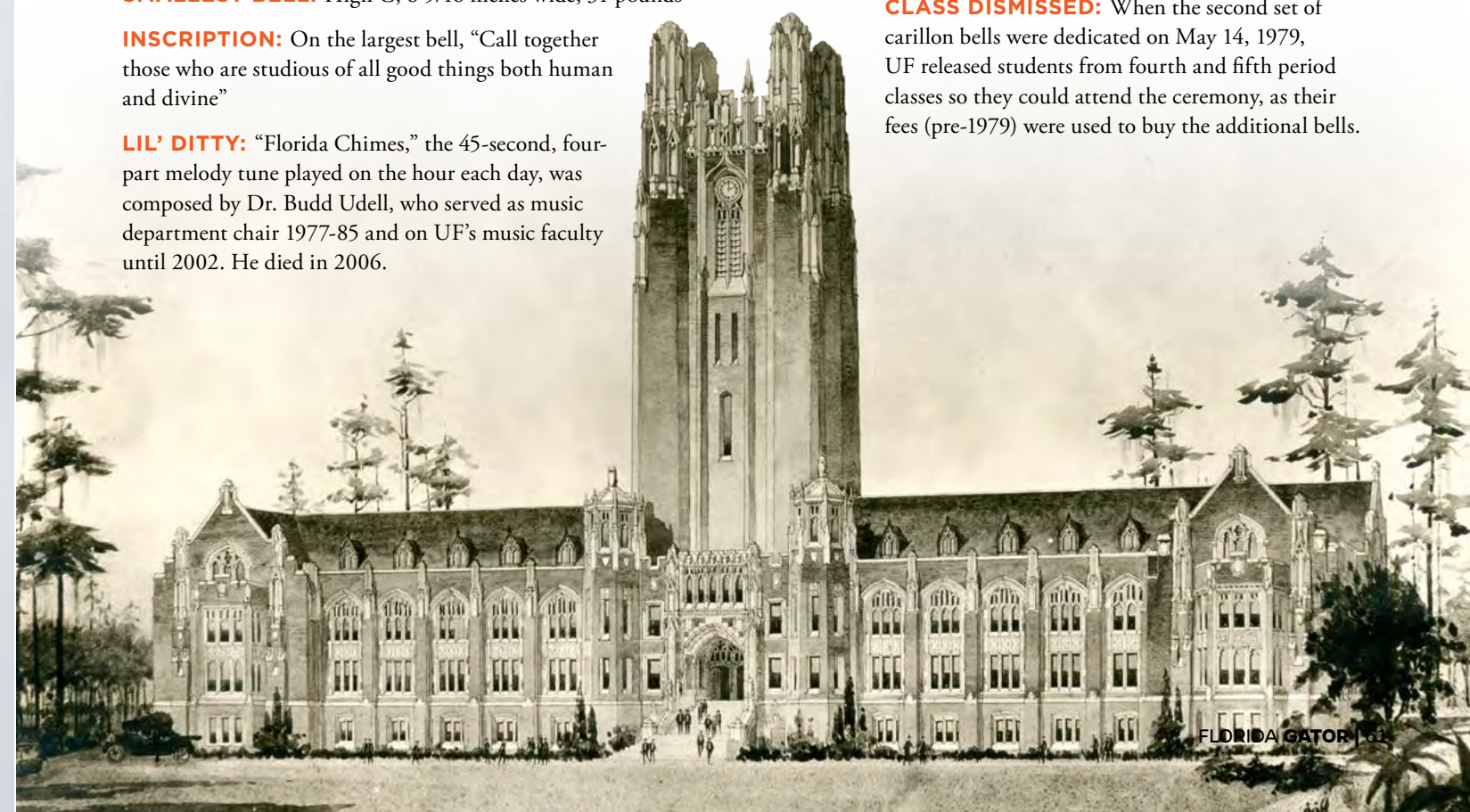
LIL' DITTY: "Florida Chimes," the 45-second, four-part melody tune played on the hour each day, was composed by Dr. Budd Udell, who served as music department chair 1977-85 and on UF's music faculty until 2002. He died in 2006.

IMPORTED: UF's bells were forged in Astén, Netherlands, shipped to Charleston, S.C., by freighter and trucked to Gainesville. UF President Robert Marsten and Student Government championed the carillon's renovation in 1977.

PRACTICE: Student carillonneurs audition and practice on a 6 ½-foot long keyboard that is connected to xylophone bars.

INSIDE: The carillon is the only finished portion of Century Tower. Original plans for the tower itself (not the larger concept below) included seven floors of galleries, classrooms and a memorial room dedicated to fallen Gator soldiers. However, those areas remain incomplete. Even the elevator shaft stands empty.

CLASS DISMISSED: When the second set of carillon bells were dedicated on May 14, 1979, UF released students from fourth and fifth period classes so they could attend the ceremony, as their fees (pre-1979) were used to buy the additional bells.



FLORIDA GATOR



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