# **Family Connection**

# **Gator Parent and Family Association Newsletter**

University of Florida
October 2014

#### Dear Mickey,

Welcome back to the Gator Nation! By now, you are a professional at this college family thing, right? You've been there, done that. You've successfully made it through your student's move-in, their first day of classes, and final exams already!

However, this is a new year with new experiences for every Gator. Some of your students are living off-campus for the first time. Some of your them are coming back from their amazing summer internships and transitioning back into life as a student. They are getting more involved, taking on more leadership roles, and working harder than ever.

Even though you are a professional, it is still natural to have questions or concerns about your student's experience. Your student will likely face a few challenges along the way, but my hope is that those challenges turn into opportunities and successes. As the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement, my job is to assist with the challenges and celebrate the successes with you.

There are so many resources at the University of Florida and I hope that you and your student both take advantage of all that we have to offer. If you need help finding or accessing any of these resources, please don't hesitate to ask me.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to also join the Gator Parent and Family Association. This year, there are lots of exciting opportunities for UF Families to engage in their student's college experience.

Have a great day and Go Gators!

### Meet the Team



Dr. Jen Day Shaw

Associate Vice President

Dean of Students



Jaime Gresley

Associate Dean of Students

Director, New Student and Family Programs



Arie Gee

Assistant Director, Family Programs and Engagement

New Student and Family Programs

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# Gator Parent and Family Association



The Gator Parent and Family Association is open to all family members of UF undergraduate students.

Membership is free, but in order to take full advantage of the benefits, you do have to activate your membership by clicking <a href="here">here</a>.

Planning to attend Homecoming?

Make sure you stop by the GPFA
hut at the end of the Gator Gallup

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#### **Get Connected**

#### Student Activities and Involvement: Tips to Get Involved

- · Choosing opportunities that interest you
- Being confident to try something new
- Finding a balance
- Visiting the SAI team

With over 1,000 student organizations for students to choose from, there is an option for everyone. Encourage your students to reach out to campus resources if they are having a difficult time connecting with other students. Some amazing campus partners to reach out to include, but are not limited to:



- Student Activities and Involvement
- Center for Leadership and Service
- Student Government
- Dean of Students Office
- Sorority and Fraternity Affairs
- Department of Recreational Sports
- Department of Housing and Residence Education
- Off Campus Life
- Career Resource Center
- Counseling and Wellness Center
- Alumni Association

## Free Flu Shots

On Friday, October 3 students can drop by the front lawn of the Student Health Care Center for free flu shots and other giveaways. The SHCC is located in the Infirmary Building (280 Fletcher Drive). In addition to free flu shots, the first 1,000 students can receive a free "SHOTS" tank top.

Visit <u>SHHC</u> for more information. Free flu shots are for UF students with a current UF ID only. After October 3, students can obtain free flu shots at the SHCC Infirmary Building or at the SHCC Shands (Health Science Center) on a walk-in basis. Outreach clinics around campus will run throughout October.



# Staying Safe

Providing a safe learning environment for your student attending the University of Florida is a top priority. As part of continuous improvements to the university's existing comprehensive security measures, Student Government has recently invested in an effective personal security solution, turning the students' smartphones into a mobile safety device.

Students can use smartphones to view local crime, submit tips to UF Police or summon help from police in just one tap.

and the entrance to <u>Gator Growl</u> for a free giveaway!

#### Homecoming and Gator Growl



LIMITLESS · 2014

Gator Growl is one of the longest standing traditions at University of Florida. For over 90 years, students at the University have worked hard to create the "largest student-run pep rally in America."

Ludacris, Foster the People, and comedian Brooks Wheelan will perform at Gator Growl this year. Along with the talent will be a collection of student-made skits, cameos from famous UF supporters, food trucks, and for those of age, a beer and wine garden.

Student tickets are \$15, and non-student tickets are \$25.

<u>Click here</u> to buy your tickets today to ensure that you and your family will be a part of our long-standing Gator tradition and **Let the Gator Growl!** 

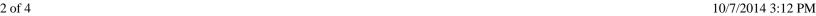
U Matter, We Care



Help a fellow Gator in distress.

The UF Community cares about one another. U Matter, We Care extends UF's caring culture by educating our community about signs and symptoms of distress and provides students in distress with the appropriate resources.

U Matter, We Care is an umbrella for care-related programs and resources for students. If your student or or one of their friends needs assistance during



TapShield's Entourage feature lets students share their route + ETA with friends and family and automatically notifies contacts and police if students don't make it to their destination.

Please urge your student to download <u>TapShield</u> onto their smartphones and use it. The app is free and found on <u>iTunes</u> or <u>Google Play Store</u>.

Click here to learn more about TapShield at UF!

# First Year Florida Peer Leader Application



First Year Florida is the first-year student's guide to academic success at the University of Florida. This one-credit, one-hour per week course is packed with the tips, tricks, and tactics necessary for survival on this large, diverse campus. Class discussions and projects focus on student skills, social diversity, career decisions, and financial management.

Each class is paired with a university official and undergraduate peer leader to help students develop the practical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills that are essential to a fulfilling four years at UF. Applications to become a peer leader will open September 2 and can be found on the Dean of Students website.

To learn more about First Year Florida, the Peer Leader experience and the application/interview process, applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the FYF Information Sessions. These are on September 24 and October 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Reitz Union Matthews Suite.

### October Events

Conflict Resolution Week

October Events	
Fall 2014 Career Showcase (Technical)	October 1
GatorNights: 2nd Annual Orange vs. Blue	October 3
Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving Pinch a Penny All Florida Invitational	October 3 - 5
Butterfly Fest	October 4
UF Symphony Orchestra	October 9
Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving	October 10
Soccer vs. Mississippi State	October 10
Volleyball vs. Georgia	October 10
GatorNights: Imagine	October 10
Football vs. LSU	October 11
Volleyball vs. Texas A&M	October 12

your time at the University of Florida know that there is always someone here who cares and is able to help. All you have to do is call or email us at 352-294-CARE (352-294-2273) or by email at umatter@ufl.edu.

Remember at UF you are a valued member of our community!

#### **Football Tickets**



Gators, you still have a chance to purchase single game football tickets and see a game in The Swamp this fall.

Contact the Gator Ticket Office to find out more information on what single game tickets and premium seats are still available. Call today at 352-375-4683 or visit <a href="GatorZone">GatorZone</a> to find out how to purchase.

Don't miss your chance to spend a Saturday in The Swamp with your family this fall and remember It's Great to be a Florida Gator.

# Gator Dining: Declining Balance



From September 22 - October 6, Gator Dining is offering a Declining Balance Reload program. For every \$100 students reload into their declining balance account, they will be awarded \$10.

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October 13-16

<u>Live Nation Presents: Jason Aldean</u>	October 16
JF Homecoming - No Classes	October 17
Gator Growl	October 17
Football vs. Missouri (Homecoming)	October 18
Volleyball vs. Arkansas	October 19
Family Weekend	October 24-26
GatorNights: Fall Carnival	October 24
Soccer (Senior Day) vs. Tennessee	October 24
Volleyball vs. Missouri	October 24
Volleyball vs. Mississippi State	October 26
Soccer vs. Vanderbilt	October 30

I wish you all the best as you continue this new journey with your student. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

#### Sincerely,

Arie Gee Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement New Student and Family Programs Dean of Students Office Division of Student Affairs University of Florida For more information, visit the <u>Gator1</u> site

### GatorNights: Always Friday, Always Free



Thank you for all of your support families. Your students have been hanging out with us on Friday nights in the Reitz Union and as we've told them - we'll be around all semester and semesters to come with blockbuster movies, free food, live comedy and musicians, and so much more.

We're Always Friday, Always Free.

Themes for October:
October 3 - Orange vs. Blue
October 10 - Imagine
October 24 - Fall Carnival

#### **Quick Links**

**Gator Parent and Family Association** 

**UF Events Calendar** 

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Try it FREE today.

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