



Note from Phil...

Dear Gator Boosters,

2017 is well underway and we're looking forward to another great year in Gator athletics. Scott Stricklin and our coaches are working hard every day to give student-athletes championship experiences and you're making it better for them by showing up and giving your support. Your attendance at sporting events is noticed by our teams and appreciated by us all, so thanks for what you're doing.



Over the past 18 months, our program has put \$106 million into our athletic facilities and we have \$100 million more worth of improvements planned. The most pressing projects are a stand-alone football facility that will house our football strength & conditioning area, training room, locker room, offices and recruiting area. This project will also include a dining facility for all of our men and women student-athletes. We will also undertake significant renovation/expansion projects in baseball and softball that will take the fan and team experience to the next level.

For our 21 teams to compete at the highest level, we have to provide all that our coaches & student-athletes need to be successful, both on the field and in the classroom. Private support is necessary for us to undertake these projects, so I ask you to look at your own situation to see if you can support us AND to help bring other generous Gators to our attention. We can't survive without you.

Again, thanks for your financial support and being a member of the Team Behind the Teams! Go Gators and we look forward to seeing you in Gainesville soon.

Cut and post for reference

Important Dates This Quarter

February 2017

- February 4—Annual Basketball Reception—RSVP event
- February 15—Early Pay Bonus deadline for football season ticket holders
- February 17—2nd payment of payment plan for football season tickets
- February 23—Scott Stricklin Tour in Palm Beach at Palm Beach Co. Convention Center - RSVP by Feb. 10 to rebeccam@gators.ufl.edu

March 2017

- March 10—Final deadline for football season ticket renewals
- March 10—Final deadline for Georgia and Michigan tickets
- Mid-March—Those who qualify for parking (Scholarship Partner and above) will receive an email regarding parking preferences
- March 17—3rd payment of payment plan for football season tickets

April 2017

- April—Receive appointment time to go online and relocate/change your seats for football
- April 7—Orange & Blue Game
- April 17—4th payment of payment plan for football season tickets

Mailing Address

Gator Boosters, Inc.
P.O. Box 13796 Gainesville, FL 32604

Phone

(800) 34-GATOR (42867)
(352) 375-GoUF (4683)

Web

www.gatorboosters.org
boosters@gators.ufl.edu



@GatorBoosters



facebook.com/GatorBoosters

Featured Student-Athletes

Your Contributions Provide Scholarships and Make a Difference in our Student-Athletes Lives and in our Community

Gators Give Back

When you watch the sun set you will see the orange glow of dusk outline blue skies and you are reminded, “The sun never sets on the Gator Nation.” –President Lombardi. The Gator nation goes beyond academics and vine-clad halls: Gators are everywhere. Gators are defined by their sense of community, and pride themselves on helping others. Whether it is helping Newberry Elementary students get PUMP’ed for testing, assisting shoe donation to local elementary students and helping promote physical and personal growth through running, or even presenting gifts to families in need and so much more. Gators are “Gator Good.”

Being a Gator is more than being a great student or a fantastic athlete, it means being an exceptional human being. Being a Gator is being kind and helping your neighbor. Although these are only a few outstanding deeds carried out by our very own Gators, they serve as examples of what it truly means to be “Gator Good”.



Men's Basketball fills backpacks at Peaceful Paths for local students in the area



Courtney Douglas and Jocelyn Nelson from Soccer add extra joy during the Climb for Cancer Event

Here is a sample of the Goodwill Gator Events for 2016:

- FSA Pep Rally (3/18/2016) Dane Dunning- Baseball, Mac Hines- Baseball, Sam Smith- Swimming & Diving, Shainah Joseph- Volleyball. At Newberry Elementary School, Student- athletes lead a pep rally for 3rd and 4th grade students as they prepared for Florida standardized testing. Student-athletes lead dances, cheers, and gave words of encouragement to PUMP students up to do their best on FSA testing.
- Girls on the Run 5k (4/16/2016) Soccer: Meggie Dougherty-Howard, Courtney Douglas, Jessie Holmes, Betsey Middleton, Jocelyn Nelson, Gaby Rivera, Gabby Seiler. Student-athletes helped at registration by encouraging all participants to do their best during their 5k run. Student-athletes awarded medals to all participants that completed the run. Girls on the Run provides an opportunity for all girls to grow as runners and as people through fitness.



Featured Student-Athletes (continued)

Your Contributions Provide Scholarships and Make a Difference in our Student-Athletes Lives and in our Community

•Annual Evening of Elegance Ball (4/16/2016) Caeleb Dressel - Swimming & Diving, Ben Kennedy- Swimming & Diving, Shainah Joseph- Volleyball, Paige Scheriger- Cross Country, Brooke Copeland- Women's Basketball. Student-athletes



UF Gymnastics team participates in the Gator Tracks program at Shell Elementary School

participated and served intellectually and/ or physical challenged persons during their ball. Student-athletes served dinner, answered questions, and danced with participants while dressed up in ball attire.

•Thanksgiving Food Drive (11/14/2016) - Student-athletes helped fill 1,000 bags for local homeless, youth, and families in need through the Catholic Charities. Student-athletes sorted, transported, and packed bags of food and clothing.

•Gator Tracks (12/16) 30 student-athletes attended the wrapping party and 42 student-athletes participated in deliveries. Student-athletes, coaches, and staff collected donations to supply 350 elementary students with a new pair of shoes and socks. Student-athletes collect all of the shoes/socks in early October and host an annual wrapping party

where all 350 shoes are wrapped like presents. During Finals week 42 student-athletes went to nine area schools to gift the shoes to local students.

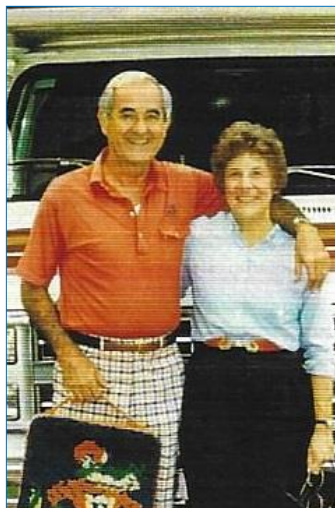
•Miracle on Main (12/3/2016) MGO: Ryan Orr, Ryan Celano, Jorge Garcia, Andy Zhang, Sam Horsfield, Gordan Neale, WGO: Maria Torres, Karolina Vlckova, Kelly Grassel, Taylor Tomlinson, Marta Perez, WTE: Kourtney Keegan, Brooke Austin, Anna Danilina, Josie Kuhlman, Spencer Liang, Peggy Porter, Belina Woolcock, WSO: Courtney Douglas, WSW: Elisavet Panti, Kahra Williams, Georgia Marris, Morgan Kaisrlik, WXC: Paige Scheriger. Miracle on Main Street provides families the opportunity to shop for presents donated through gifts from the local community. Student-athletes arrived at 7:45am to volunteer with the families and their children. Student-athletes helped select and wrap presents, entertain kids, and deliver presents to cars. Over 500 families were served.



Lindsay Walker (Gymnastics) and McClain Kessler (Men's Tennis) lead Gator Move



Featured Booster of the Quarter—Andy & Helen Serros (The Serros Family)



Andy & Helen Serros (The Serros Family) - Season Ticket Holders for 50 Years

Andy and Helen Serros have five daughters and one son, all raised to be Gator fans. After learning to say "mama" and "dada", their next words were "Go Gators!" As they grew up Mr. Serros would teach his children about the game of football as they sat in front of a small black and white TV and he would use a fishing pole to point out players and their positions on the screen.

Mr. Serros' week revolved around the Gators. He would read the predictions of Saturday's game on Friday. He attended or watched the Gator game from home every Saturday without fail. On Sunday he watched the repeat of the game on Ray Graves' TV show. When the Gainesville Sunday paper was delivered, he would read every article about the Gators. On Tuesday, he went to the University Club to watch the game again and discuss it with his fellow Gators. In the fifties and sixties Mr. Serros and his fellow Gators around the state would send the team Western Union telegrams straight to the locker room for encouragement.

Mr. Serros passed away in 2007, but Helen and the Serros Family have continued supporting the Gators as season ticket holders. Sean, his nephew and UF Alumni even played "We Are the Boys" on his guitar as the family sang it together at Mr. Serros' funeral.

Marianne Serros Lyon, one of the Serros' daughters, says she is "very thankful to have been raised a Gator. Mostly I'm thankful for a Gator dad who taught us how to win and lose, how to stay faithful and loyal fans during the good and bad times. All of those lessons translated on how we treat others in all areas of our lives, how we keep life in perspective, and that family comes first...and then Florida Gators!"

Major Gift Donor Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson could be the poster boy for a self-made man campaign. As a kid growing up in Dade City, Florida, Johnson enjoyed few advantages. His father died when he was two, leaving his mother to raise six children. Life was difficult. "I came from a very poor family and didn't have running water in our house until I was 14 or so, but we had a very happy home life," Johnson said.

Johnson lacked a sense of purpose after completing high school. He enrolled at the University of Florida but his college career was short-lived. Seeking a brighter future than his past, Johnson entered the Marines and trained at Parris Island.

Military service opened his eyes to new possibilities. He excelled at St. Petersburg Junior College, and went on to a second stint at the University of Florida that would result in his graduation in 1972.

What a journey it has been for the 71-year-old Johnson, UF graduate and major donor to the university's business school and athletic department. In 2007, Johnson received what he considers one of his life's greatest honors: Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Florida.

Johnson started his own consulting business and founded Global Imaging Systems in 1994. The company was named by Forbes magazine as one of the 400 Best Big Businesses in America, and subsequently sold to Xerox for approximately \$1.8 billion. Nowadays, Tom and his wife enjoy their success. They have four sons and six grandchildren and life is good. Tom is quick to point out that two of their sons and two of their grandsons are Florida grads. "We're starting a little tradition," he said.



Tom Johnson and his wife, Jane.



Where Are They Now?

Recognizing Former Student-Athletes Successes

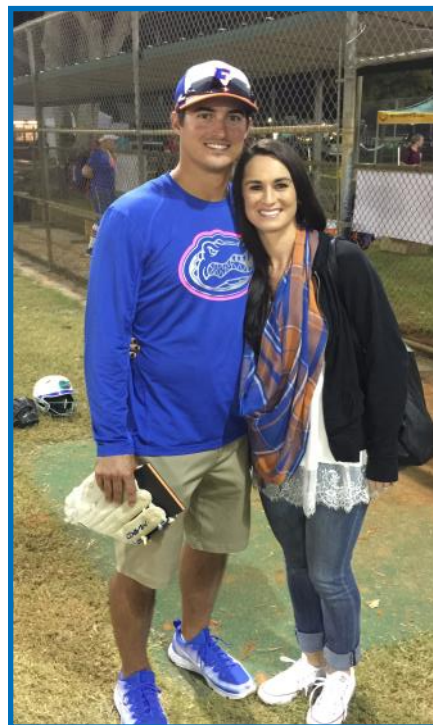
This past fall Tim Walton announced Cody Dent as the program's volunteer assistant softball coach. Dent replaces Doug Mirabelli, who spent the 2015 season with the Gators.

Dent comes back to Gainesville after completing his four-year career in the minor leagues with the Washington Nationals organization. A 22nd-round selection of the Nats in the 2013 Major League Baseball Draft, the Boynton Beach, Florida native spent time with the Auburn Doubledays, Hagerstown Suns and Potomac Nationals during his career.

Dent, no stranger to UF, played his collegiate baseball with the Gators from 2010-13. In Dent's final year at UF in 2013, the senior started in 48 games in his final collegiate season. For his career, Dent played in the College World Series three years in a row (2010-12) and was a three-time SEC Academic Honor Roll member. After doing his senior year internship at the Gator Booster office, he graduated with a degree in Sport Management in 2013.

Shortly after graduation, Dent married the former Ensley Gammel who played softball at UF from 2010-2013. In addition, he is the son of 12-year Major Leaguer Bucky Dent who was the 1978 World Series MVP for the New York Yankees.

We are all excited to see Cody back in the Orange and Blue and look forward to seeing his impact on the field this year as we watch the Gator softball team in action.



Cody & Ensley Dent

Meet the Staff



The Gator Booster Staff consists of 14 employees all dedicated to serving our Boosters, our athletes and the University of Florida. This quarter we are highlighting Kyle Rogers.

Assistant Director

Kyle joined the Gator Booster Staff in August 2012 and oversees premium seating areas for football and basketball as well as all aspects of the F Club, including the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. Kyle also assists with the overall Annual Giving program and serves as the athletic liaison to the Gator Clubs. On game days in the fall you can find him in the Skybox lobby attending to the needs of all the boosters throughout the skybox tower.

Kyle is a native of High Springs, FL and a proud Gator. He received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Florida and a Master's Degree in Sport Management from the University of Florida.

(352) 375-4683 ext. 5021

KyleR@gators.ufl.edu



FEEDBACK CORNER

We would like to feature a booster each quarter. If you have a great Gator Booster story, please email us so we can share it in our next newsletter. Send it to:

michelles@gators.ufl.edu

Please let us know what you think of this newsletter and help us be the best Booster organization in America.

Send to:

michelles@gators.ufl.edu