



## Note from Phil...

Dear Gator Boosters,

We're getting close to the end of the semester and it's Championship season for our Gator teams still competing. We have quite a few Top 10 teams working toward great finishes to their seasons and it's happening because of Championship support. If you can make it to Gainesville to watch some of these elite student-athletes perform, you'll be glad you did.



While our student-athletes continue competing in their respective sports, they're also competing in the classroom. This academic year we've had 91 student-athletes receive All-SEC Academic awards and 3 have received National Academic All-American honors. Florida gymnast Alex McMurtry is the 2017 Honda Sports Award recipient, an honor given annually to the nation's top collegiate female athlete in her sport. Alex is the first Gator in any sport to receive the NCAA Elite 90 Award, an honor awarded to the student-athlete with the highest GPA at each of the NCAA's 90 championship sites. As always, we are excited to watch 90 student-athletes walk across the graduation stage for their diplomas in 2016-2017, 48 of whom graduated this past weekend in the stunning Exactech Arena. There's so much to be proud of in the Gator Nation and you play a vital role.

All of these accomplishments, on and off the field, are possible through your generous support so congratulations.

We also have three significant capital projects ahead in the football, baseball and softball programs and we need your help making them happen. We need to raise \$50 million in private funding to support these projects; please look at your individual situations and explore your ability to step up and help. We need the Gator Nation to prove we're the best in the country.

Again, we have a lot of exciting things happening in Gator athletics and it's happening through your generous support. Come see us and Go Gators!!

*Cut and post for reference*

## Important Dates This Quarter

### May 2017

- May 1 - Football Away Game tickets go on sale (Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina)
- May 17 - Football Season Payment processed (those on payment plan)
- May 22 - Renewals for Men's Basketball Season tickets begin

### June 2017

- June 2 - Football Away Game tickets order deadline
- June 16 - Football Season Payment processed (those on payment plan)

### July 2017

- July 12 - Football Single Game tickets on sale
- July 14 - Men's Basketball Season ticket deadline
- July 17 - Football Season Payment processed (those on payment plan)
- End of July - Football Membership Kits delivered

**Reminder: Please make sure your contact and credit card information are up-to-date on your account so there are no issues mailing your tickets nor any issues with your automatic payments for season tickets.**



Keep an Eye Out for...



## Florida vs. Michigan 2017 Information



*Downtown Dallas welcoming the Gators*

### Events in Dallas

Gator Boosters and the UF Alumni Association plan to host a pep rally during the early evening on Friday at the Omni Hotel in downtown Dallas as well as a tailgate event on Saturday at the [Tailgate Tavern](#) just a few blocks away from the AT&T Stadium property. We will provide more details on these events in the coming months. All Gators are welcome!

### Bull Gator Excursion

Pricing details for this year's Bull Gator Excursion will be finalized in the next few weeks. For those Bull Gators and their guests who are interested, the Excursion package will consist of a game day brunch/lunch (depending on game time) and round-trip shuttle to AT&T Stadium from the Omni Hotel.

### Total Sports Travel

Go online to [www.totalsportstravel.com](http://www.totalsportstravel.com) or call 877-398-5422 to reserve your travel package today. They have two- night land packages as well as optional charter flights from Gainesville and Sanford/Orlando. The two-night package includes:

- Two Nights Hotel Accommodations and Taxes at the Omni Dallas Hotel
- Pre-Registration of Hotel Room
- Round-Trip Game Day Transportation and Parking
- Personalized Name Badge
- Hospitality Desk Sponsored by Total Sports Travel and Gator Boosters
- Tour Directors and Management Provided by Total Sports Travel



## Featured Booster of the Quarter

*Bud Taylor - Long-Time Bull Gator Steps Up for the Bull Gator Challenge*

Bud (William) Taylor is a native Floridian and is proud to have been raised a Gator fan. He attended the games with his dad in the mid 60's and then raised his children and grandchildren to be avid Gator fans. He and his wife, Mindy, have been season ticket holders for almost 30 years and are long-time Bull Gators.

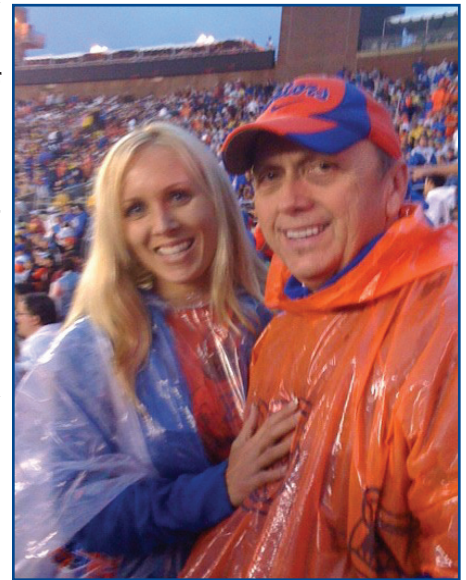


*The Taylor's daughter, Jacqueline and grand daughter, Taylor*

They have two daughters, Jacqueline and Haley and three sons, Calvin, Porter and Donald as well as two grandchildren. Bud worked in the food service industry where he built and sold a large national sales agency. He is now retired and does consulting in the industry.

Bud says that he felt "compelled to step up to the Bull Gator Challenge" to help the University move back to being a leader and not a follower. Bud says he is "tired of hearing

about what other universities have to offer in the way of facilities and amenities for the student athletes that we don't have." Bud believes, "It's time for everyone to pitch in so we can reclaim our rightful leadership role in these areas and give our coaching staff the advantage they need to secure top student athletes year after year."



*Bud Taylor with his wife, Mindy, at the game Tebow played and won against FSU in 2008*

## Featured Major Gift Donors of the Quarter

*This Quarter We Honor our Endowment Donors*

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, Gator Boosters held our 4th Annual Athletic Scholarship Endowment Dinner. This amazing dinner is held to honor and thank our scholarship donors for funding endowments. Donors have the opportunity to meet student-athletes and get to know how their lives are enriched by their experience at UF in athletics and in the classroom.



*2017 Endowment Dinner*



Student-athletes from each sport, along with their coaches attended the event and had a chance to thank the donors that fund their scholarships. Sammi Burgess from Lacrosse and Ryan Orr from Golf were our featured guest speakers.

*(featured in photo above)*





## ***Leave a Lasting Legacy and Help Change the Game for Gator Athletics***

Gifts of any size make an impact on our student-athletes. No matter your level of current involvement or your location throughout the country this is your opportunity to make a difference. As a current season ticket holder, you can be part of this initiative by giving in addition to your tickets.

*“We are fortunate at the University of Florida to have donors and fans committed to the program that have helped us build one of the top athletic programs in the nation. We are also fortunate that we have people that want us to continue to improve. We inspire all of our student-athletes to be game changers on the field, in the classroom and in life. Just as we ask them to give their all, we are now asking the Gator Nation to be game changers for our athletic program and help us provide a ‘Championship Experience’ for our student-athletes and fans.”*

**- Scott Strickin, UF Director of Athletics**

**Current season ticket holders can apply 3-for-1 Loyalty Points to their already existing booster membership. (80% tax deductible or 100% tax deductible if you don't receive additional points. NOTE: 3-for-1 Loyalty Points offer ends 12/31/18)**

### **How to Become a #GatorGameChanger**

Go online: [www.gatorboosters.org](http://www.gatorboosters.org)

Call or Send Payment to:

Gator Boosters, Inc. (Attn: Paul Vosilla)

PO Box 13796, Gainesville, FL 32604

352-375-4683 x5020



## Featured Student-Athlete

*What does the summer hold for the award-winning McMurtry?*

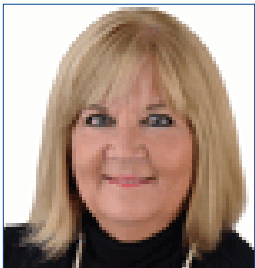
The awards continue to pile up for University of Florida junior gymnast Alex McMurtry. She is the 2017 Honda Sports Award recipient, the all-around National Champion and uneven bars winner, the NCAA Elite 90 award winner and the SEC Gymnast and Scholar-Athlete of the Year to name a few.

When asked about her plans for this summer, McMurtry said, "This summer I was fortunate enough to get an internship with Nike, and I'll be working on many marketing projects for Nike's Transportation Team. With my major being Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, I'm happy to be spending my summer promoting healthy living and active transportation. In addition to working full-time at Nike's Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, I will be taking one class for my major and also studying for the GRE. I think it's extremely important to use the summer to prepare myself for my future plans to go to Physician Assistant school here at UF, while resting my body for next season."

*Alex McMurtry is the third Gator to claim the NCAA all-around title. Those Gators have also taken the Honda Award following the NCAA all-around win (Kytra Hunter - 2012, 2015; Bridget Sloan - 2013, 2016; McMurtry - 2017)*



## 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 **Garrett Bell**.

### Major Gifts and Events Coordinator

Garrett joined the Gator Booster Staff in November 2007. She works directly with Phil Pharr on Major Giving. One of her favorite responsibilities is the "Year In Review" annual publication. On game days in the fall you will find her on the 6th Floor Suite Level. She and her husband (Eddie Bell) have been married for 26 years and both grew up in Gainesville. They have two beautiful daughters, Haley and Emilee (both UF Graduates). Garrett graduated with a B.S. in Interior Design.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:michelles@gators.ufl.edu)

