Dr. Murphree's Opening Speech.

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through the years.

Florida Alligator impressions

Summer School Edition

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, JUNE 30, 1915

Vol. III. No. 1

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Fifth Annual Summer

FOR A GREATER FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 15

GAINESVILLE FLORIDA, SATURDAY, JUNE 2

The Florida Alligator

Alligator

For a Greater Florida

APPROVAL OF THE \$150,000 ALUMNI CAMPAIGN

JAMES L. WHITE HANDS IN RESIGNATION AS DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AT U. OF F

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Walter C. Kelly, Chairman of A.C.C.S.

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VOL. 36, No. 24, FRIDAY 20, 1945



Park Sweeps In o





NEW STUDENT EDITE



SG Gets 'New Loo **Summer Election (To Supply Continu**

August 25, 1995

the independent florida



GAINESVILLE, FL

Authors: Melissa Jerome, Project Coordinator, Florida & Puerto Rico Digital Newspaper Project

April Hines, Journalism and Mass Communications Librarian

INTRO

TRACING BACK ALLIGATOR TRACKS

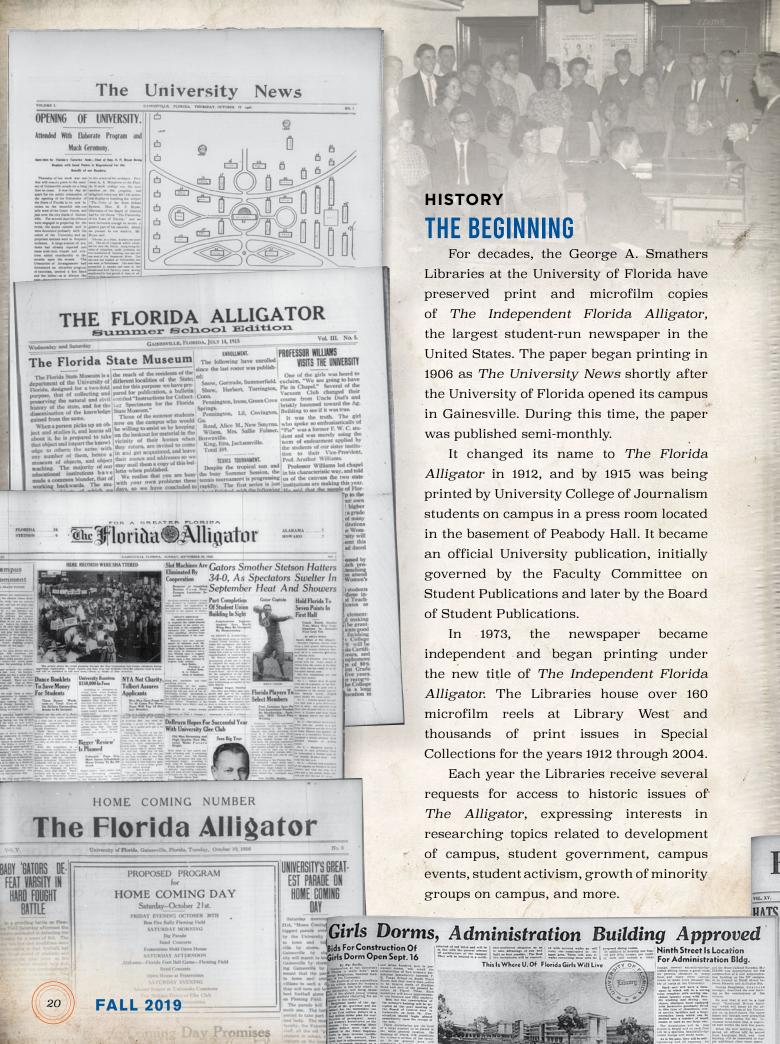
When University of Florida graduate and longtime Gainesville resident Ron Perry heard the announcement that UF's student newspaper, *The Alligator*, had been digitized and made available online by the George A. Smathers Libraries, the first thing he did was search for Halloween 1971. This was the year a Masquerade

Ball was held on the Plaza of the Americas, where more than 2,000 people danced in costume to the music of Mudcrutch—a band led by an up-and-coming artist named Tom Petty. According to *The Alligator* article covering the event, there were fireworks, tambourines, and balloons flying over the plaza.

"I was 16 when I went to this with my older brother," said Perry. "It was sort of like a mini-Woodstock where I discovered a new world of music." This was an event he always thought of fondly, and the ability to revisit his past with a few keystrokes was something he never expected. He also found mentions of his father, a well-known professor with the University's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), and even located articles written by his brother,

a 1970's *Alligator* reporter who went on to become a journalism professor at the University of Alabama. For Perry, searching this new digital collection was similar to opening a time capsule with countless connections to his life.





From September 2017 through August 2019, the endowment enabled the digitization of 163 microfilm reels, equating to more than 147,000 pages of issues published from 1912 through 2004.

ALLIGATOR DIGITIZATION PROJECT

For several years, the Libraries have digitized historic issues of The Alligator upon request and as funds have been available. Through a partnership Alligator editors, the Libraries have also provided access to issues published from 2005 to present in the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC) Alligator collection (ufdc.ufl.edu/alligator).

However, there were large gaps in the digitized content. Many issues were only available on microfilm or in bound volumes housed in Smathers Library or the Alligator Offices. Without an exact date or citation, one would have to flip through innumerable pages or rolls of film hoping to stumble across related material. The inability to search the full text across issues meant that a great deal of information was largely hidden from journalists, researchers, students, and members of the general public.

Previous Alligator staff members attempted to take matters

into their own hands without realizing just how much goes into a digitization project of this size. Said one Alligator alumna who shared the announcement Twitter, "When I was at The Alligator, I bought a flatbed scanner & started a project to deliver a searchable database for 90+ years of publications. It chugged along for years, rightfully second to delivering the news. I am SO thrilled to see this finally happening with expert support!!"

With funding from an endowment, Patrick Reakes, the Project Director and Senior Associate Dean Scholarly Resources Services in the Libraries, was able to start The Alligator Digitization Project, with the goal of providing free, online access to all issues of The Independent Florida Alligator. These newly digitized issues complement the digitized material already available in UFDC, providing access to the complete Alligator archive housed by the Libraries and over 100 years of content.











The following items represent a summary of the Board of Regents me ion in Tallahassee Monday, April 9.

DEVIL'S MILLHOPPER

The Board approved requests from the University of Florida to transfer the 49-acre Devil's Millhopper property to the Florida Department of Natural Resources and sub-lease 13.9 acres at Lake Wauburg to the Board of County for five years. The Division of Recreation and parks has proposed to protect and preserve the Devil's Millhopper property while utilizing its ducational advantages and feels the area has special qualities as a state geological site. The University will have access to the site and be directly involved with planning and management of the property through an advisory committee. The Department





ALLIGATOR CONTENT

The Alligator is a chronicle of the student perspective of the University of Florida and life in Gainesville. Digitization of this archive has unearthed articles about the development of campus, including the construction of many still-standing campus buildings, such as the Florida Gym, the Florida Museum, and Century Tower.

Student journalists of *The Alligator* covered campus life during the World Wars, the shift to a co-ed campus, and the debates leading up to racial integration. *The Alligator* included reports on activities of student organizations like the Florida Players, Glee Club, and minority groups such as the Hispanic Student Association and the Black Student Union. Stories related to various on-campus fraternities and sororities are also featured.

The University's scholarly output and educational advancements were also covered extensively in *The Alligator*, including the development of the tutoring center on campus, the Whitney Laboratory's ground-breaking research on horseshoe crabs, and the influential work of Samuel Proctor, a former UF historian and social sciences professor after whom the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is named. And of course, one can track the entire evolution of the invention of Gatorade by UF's Dr. Robert Cade and the controversies that ensued over who should hold the rights to the revolutionary sports drink.

The paper has published stories about the origins of many campus traditions, such as the "F" book, Homecoming, and Gator Growl. Coverage of sports such as men's football, basketball, tennis, and women's tennis, volleyball, and soccer demonstrates *The Alligator's* unwavering interest and support for Gator sports.

It also includes student-drawn political and sports-related cartoons. Several ads for Gainesville businesses like Leonardo's Pizza can be found along with local news coverage of Santa Fe, Silver Springs, and the origins of the Hippodrome State Theatre.

One of the most exciting types of coverage that can be found in *The Alligator* is reporting on nationally known musicians who performed on campus such as the Rolling Stones and Red Hot Chili Peppers as well as famous comedians like Robin Williams and Jerry Seinfeld. Several artists performed at UF before reaching the height of their fame.

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KRISHNA LEADER

Promoting UF keeps Marston on the move



UF grads find jobs scarce



WHY IS ACCESS IMPORTANT?

President Spurrier

Providing a digital archive of more than 100 years of news not only greatly extends access to valuable UF and Gainesville material, but also helps fill a gap in state and national coverage due to what some refer to as the "black hole of newspaper digitization." While newspapers from the last thirty years or so can often be found in commercial news databases such as Lexis-Nexis, and anything before 1924 is usually the first to be digitized because it is considered part of the public domain, a large amount of news in between is still only available on microfilm. This "black hole" greatly reduces access to news coverage of significant periods in our history such as World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Women's Liberation Movement. However, thanks to The Alligator Digitization Project, such information is now just a keyword search away, and told from a unique, local, and student perspective.

Gator fans show their fride at last year's football game at South Carolina, which the Gators won, 63-7, to clinch their fourth straight Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title. UF opens the 1996 season at home on Aug. 31 against Southwestern Louisiana.

Such access will be greatly appreciated by researchers and authors like Marty Jourard, author of the book Music Everywhere: The Rock and Roll Roots of a Southern Town, which discusses the influential Gainesville Music Scene of the 60's and 70's. Said Jourard in response to a Facebook post about the digitization project, "I came from Seattle to Gainesville twice for research

on my book and turned every page of every edition from 1963 through 1976 (large bound volumes) and took digital photos of articles of interest. I could not

have written the book without those back issues The Florida Independent Alligator."



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UF tennis: past, present and future



ufdc.ufl.edu/source





For a Greater Flor

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Bottling Co.

Having a searchable database that reaches beyond the paper's physical copies is also incredibly valuable for

today's newspaper staff. Alligator reporters have often turned their print archives to track down information such as the name of the first female senator in student government and the origins of the university's African American Studies program. When Richard Spencer came to speak at the University of Florida in 2017, many wondered if there had been similar controversial speakers on campus in the past, and how those situations were handled by UF administration. The answer laid within the pages of The Alligator, with 52 results appearing after a search for "controversial speaker" in the digital collection.

Said prior Alligator editor-in-chief Melissa Gomez, who met with library staff when The Alligator digitization

project was first being planned, "When we publish stories, we do it not only inform the public but to remind them of history. The digitization of



our archives means future members of the Gainesville community will be able to look back and know how the community felt about past events."

Gomez is now a reporter for the Los Angeles Times. This speaks volumes about The Alligator's impressive legacy, which has started the careers of numerous reporters, editors, photographers, etc. who have worked for some of the world's largest news publications and media outlets. Now many are turning to the newly digitized Alligator archive to re-discover their very first bylines.





OUTREACH

Remember, the entire archive is text-searchable and freely accessible online! Visit the UFDC Alligator collection to view the content. www.ufdc.ufl.edu/alligator Content from these historic issues is also regularly featured on the Libraries' social media accounts.









FALL 2019

Volume 2, Issue 1

