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# The Family Connection

Volume 5, Issue 1



## Important Dates:



Wednesday, August 17 - Move-in Begins

Friday, August 19 - New Student Convocation

Friday, August 19 - GatorNights!

Monday, August 22 - Classes Start

Monday, August 22 - Drop/Add Begins

Thursday, August 25 - RecSports Extravaganza

Monday, August 26 - Drop/Add End

Questions? Email Us: [family@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:family@ufsa.ufl.edu)

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## Quick Links

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Career Resource Center

Center for Leadership and Service

Counseling & Wellness Center

Dean of Students Office

Florida Opportunity Scholars Program

GatorWell Health Promotion Services



Welcome to the Family Connection. This newsletter is created to give you up to date information from the University of Florida. It contains important links and deadlines, so that you can continue to support your student through his/her academic journey. The Gator Parent and Family Association is here to support you. We encourage you to "Like" us on Facebook for daily information about what's going

on at UF. Also as always, email us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a successful school year with you.

## Bright Futures Update

The Florida State Legislature has implemented several important changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. These changes are already into effect. It is critical that Bright Futures recipients (and their parents) familiarize themselves with these changes in award amounts, disbursements, and eligibility criteria.

The biggest change is that students are **now required to submit a complete, error-free FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** in order to receive both initial and renewal Bright Futures eligibility. The FAFSA must be submitted yearly prior to disbursement.



The revised Florida Bright Futures award amounts for **2011-12:**

- o Florida Academic will award **\$101** per credit hour
- o Florida Medallion & Gold Seal Vocational will award **\$76** per credit hour
- o Top Scholars will award **\$43** per credit hour

Additional information regarding state financial aid program eligibility can be found at the state of Florida's Office of Student Financial Assistance Web site at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) as well as the University of Florida Office for Student Financial Affairs Web site at [www.sfa.ufl.edu](http://www.sfa.ufl.edu). Students and parents are encouraged to check both Web sites frequently to stay informed on the latest information on the Bright Futures Scholarship and other state programs.



## Moving In

Move in for students living in an on-campus residence hall begins Wednesday, August 17. Students may check-in according to their check-in

Housing & Residence Education

J. Wayne Reitz Union

Multicultural & Diversity Affairs

Off Campus Life

Recreational Sports

Student Legal Services



## Family Chat

UF's online Family Chat program is a great way to stay connected and informed! Join other UF family members and campus representatives for themed bi-monthly chat sessions. These live online sessions are designed to answer your specific questions and promote discussion about UF and common transition concerns you or your UF student may experience.

**Thursday, September 9 from 5-7 p.m.** - Learn easy ways to help your student transition to life at UF.

**Wednesday, September 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** - Help

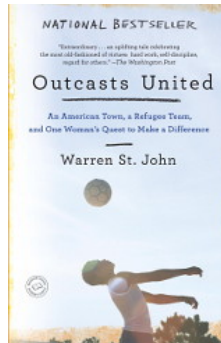
time, which can be found at [housing.ufl.edu/downloads/Checkin2011.pdf](http://housing.ufl.edu/downloads/Checkin2011.pdf).

You will have limited time to park your vehicle near your residence hall during check-in. Please be prepared to unload quickly and move your car to a satellite parking lot. You may only unload one car at a time; other cars must be parked in a satellite parking lot.

In addition to extra-long twin bed sheets, there are some other items your student needs to bring with them. For a suggested packing list, please visit [housing.ufl.edu/prospective/packinglist.php](http://housing.ufl.edu/prospective/packinglist.php)

## Convocation

UF's official welcome for all new first-year students is Friday, August 19. As the one and only time all members of the class of 2015 will be in the same place at the same time, this event celebrates their entry into higher education and inducts them to a community of learners here at the University of Florida. Our first-year students will not only realize their identity as a class but be reminded of the privilege they have to change the world for the better as a member of the Gator Nation.



Attendance at New Student Convocation is required of all first-year students. Family members of our new students are welcome to attend, and special seating arrangements will be provided.

**Date:** Friday, August 19, 2011

**Time:** Doors open at 8 a.m. program begins at 9:30 a.m. promptly. Please plan to arrive by 9 a.m. to ensure seating.

**Where:** O'Connell Center (Please note students will sit with their college and family members will have an assigned seating accommodation too. Click [here](#) to see a map listing for college seating locations)

**Parking:** Parking will be available in the O'Connell Center North Lot (Orange and Green Decal spaces) and in the O'Connell Center Garage VII (Seven).

your student find balance during college.

Learn more at the [Family Chat Web site](#).



## Welcome Assemblies

Is your student looking to make friends and find groups to connect with? Encourage your student to attend a Welcome Assembly. These student assemblies promote friendship, involvement and diversity.

August 24 - Black Student Assembly

August 26 - Asian American Student Assembly

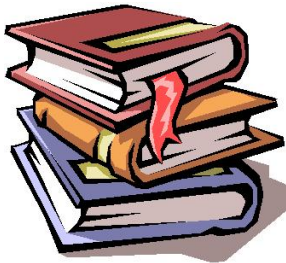
August 30 - Hispanic Student Assembly

September 1 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Student Assembly

Learn more at [multicultural.ufl.edu/assemblies/](http://multicultural.ufl.edu/assemblies/)

**Following Convocation:** Students will be escorted by volunteers to their college/school session known as Navigating the Swamp immediately following Convocation (click [here](#) to view college locations). During this time students will meet faculty and staff from their college, and engage in discussion about the Common Reading Program book, *Outcasts United*. Family members will have the opportunity to attend UF's Family Welcome Reception at Emerson Alumni Hall.

For more information regarding New Student Convocation please visit their [Frequently Asked Questions Page](#)



## Textbook Rental

Textbook rental program now available at the UF Bookstores, both in store and online. Go to [www.rent-a-text.com](http://www.rent-a-text.com) and sign up to begin saving 50 percent on the initial cost of new textbooks. You can use your Gator 1 card using

deferment or a Bookstore debit card to pay for the rental.

In addition to saving at least 50 percent on the initial cost of many textbooks, students can highlight and make notes in their rental textbooks, and have the option to purchase the book at the end of the term (for an additional fee). Students can rent, pickup and return textbooks either in store or online.

Students may also [Advance Order](#) their books. This is done in two easy steps:

1. Click on the term that you want to view at 'My Textbooks' by logging on at ISIS.
2. Then go to "Advance Order Your Textbooks from the UF Bookstore"

Students can view their [summer schedule and textbooks](#) or [fall schedule and textbooks](#) here now.

## Direct Deposit Scholarship Money

While students have in the past had the option of receiving paper checks from University Financial Services (UFS) via U.S. Mail, this service will no longer be available beginning in the fall of 2011.



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Due to UF's continuing support for sustainable practices, as well as the costs associated with producing, mailing, and tracking undelivered checks, UFS will no longer routinely issue paper checks.

UF now requires that all students receiving financial aid sign up for direct deposit. To sign up, go to [my.UFL](#) and select "Access myUFL" to login. On the top toolbar, select "Main Menu." Choose "My Campus Finances," then "Student Direct Deposit."

Direct Deposit is the quickest and safest way for students to receive their financial aid refunds.

For more information:

<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/disbursements>

## Eat Healthy on Campus



Eating right is very important to your student academic success and general happiness. With Gator Dining, eating nutritious on campus is easy with lots of options for fresh food and even vegan menus.

Gator Dining offers four residential meal plans with six locations available to redeem all meal plans (the Fresh Food Company, Gator Corner Dining Center, the Orange & Brew, Home Zone, Croutons and the Camellia Court Café at the Harn Museum of Art), students are able to enjoy a wide variety of foods at all times of the day.

Dining at other locations is easy and flexible with the included supplemental fund called Flex Bucks. Flex Bucks can be used to eat at any of the other restaurants on campus including Starbucks, Subway, Jamba Juice and more. You can also sign up for their Flex Bucks Reload Program. Just ask us how by calling 352-392-2491.

Gator Dining offers a guide to all on-campus restaurants, showing your students what the healthiest options are at each location. [View the guide](#) now.

For those students who like to cook or need groceries and do not want to travel too far, convenience stores such as Beauty Market and Graham Oasis, have everything your student needs from milk, cereal, pastas, and sushi to personal products, paper towels, and more. It's like a whole grocery store in your area!

lowers, and more. It's like a whole grocery store in your area!  
Both locations are open daily and close very late. They also accept Flex Bucks.

Check out their Where to Eat map at [http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining/GatorDiningMap\\_20110513.pdf](http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining/GatorDiningMap_20110513.pdf) or visit [www.gatordining.com](http://www.gatordining.com) for further information.

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