



Gator Nation: Celebrating 50 Years of Black Alumni Achievement and Determination

Friday, October 12th:

10:00 A.M. Tee Time	Golf Outing	UF Golf Course
1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Registration	UF College of Law
3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	UF Public Program Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of UF's <i>first</i> African-American graduate	UF College of Law Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Room
4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Live Band and Dinner Buffet	*UF University Women's Club (next to UF basketball practice facility)
9:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.	Wine Down Social; Old School Bid Whist and Spades Party; Reunite with Old, New Gators	UF Hilton – BAW Headquarters Hotel
11:00 P.M. – Until	Downtown Nightlife: "Club 101"	Downtown

Saturday, October 13th:

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Celebratory Champagne Brunch Featuring Virgil Hawkins Panel Symposium Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince, MSNBC News VP Yvette Miley Headline Panel	UF Hilton
12:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Golden Anniversary All-Years, All Organizations Tailgate Reunion and Watch Party Special Tribute to Alumni Athletes	UF Reitz Union Amphitheater and "Orange and Brew"
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.	Reception - 50 Years of Black Gator Achievement	UF Hilton
7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.	50th Commemoration Dinner and Awards Program	UF Hilton
9:30 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.	The Half Century Soiree	UF Hilton

Sunday, October 14th:

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	Inspirational Wrap-Up and Farewell Casual Continental Breakfast Eat-N-Go	UF Hilton
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Description of Events

Registration:

Alumni and guests should report to the Fredric G. Levin College of Law Friday afternoon to pick up your 2012 BAW registration packets. Event tickets will be included in your packet. Registration at the College of Law provides alumni and guests the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the venue for the Opening Ceremony and official public program. UF Cicerones, UF Law BAW committee members, and UF Association of Black Alumni volunteers will assist guests at registration. **Registration will move to the UF Hilton Conference Center at 7:00 P.M.**

Friday, October 12th Events

Golf Outing for Gator Golfers and Friends

Enjoy the inaugural ABA Golf Outing at the UF Golf Course. Tee Time 10:00 A.M. \$50.00 fee includes Cart and Green Fee. **\$25.00 should be paid by September 25th to secure tee time.** Format will depend on the number of golfers who have registered by the **September 25th golf registration deadline.** **Send your name, phone, address, and email to ufabagolf@gmail.com and everettpj@yahoo.com for additional details.** The Opening Ceremony program is a short distance from the UF Golf Course.

Opening Ceremony and Public Program

Senior university officials, faculty and staff, students, community friends and guests, and **Gator alumni from every decade and degree should attend the Opening Ceremony** where the University of Florida officially commemorates the 50-year milestone of W. George Allen's achievement as the first black student to graduate from the University of Florida. The program also marks the importance of the integration of the University of Florida as a watershed event that opened the doors of higher education throughout the entire state of Florida. The Fredric G. Levin College of Law hosts the official kick-off event at the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom.

Live Entertainment and Dinner Buffet

The UF Levin College of Law is the gracious sponsor of the evening's live entertainment. The Levin College of Law invites all alumni to remain for live entertainment in the Schott Courtyard. Enjoy a succulent buffet hosted and sponsored by your University of Florida Alumni Association (UFAA). **The Virgil Hawkins interactive display in the state-of-the-art Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center is a must-see for every UF alumnus--watch and participate in an interactive history of the integration of the University of Florida.**



Friday, October 12th Events (continued)

Wine Down Social and Fellowship; Old School Bid Whist and Spades Party

After a moving public program, dinner, and entertainment, “wine down” the evening in the relaxed atmosphere of the UF Hilton and Conference Center, Headquarters Hotel for Black Alumni Weekend. Late-arriving Gators who missed the public program can still reunite with old friends, network with the Gator Nation, and enjoy a relaxing evening. Alumni and guests are welcome to play in the Old School Bid Whist and Spades Party. Who Plays Better? Old School Gators or Millennium Gators? Play or simply enjoy the company of old friends. Need a spark—head downtown and join the young and the young-at-heart.

Downtown Gainesville: “Club 101”

Nostalgic about Friday nights in downtown Gainesville? Join Gator Nation’s young and young-at-heart at “Club 101” for an exciting night on the town. If you get worn-down, return to the UF Hilton Conference Center and wine-down with fellow Gators or enjoy the Old School Bid Whist and Spades Party.

Saturday, October 13th Events

Celebratory Champagne Brunch Featuring the Virgil Hawkins Legacy Symposium

The UF Association of Black Alumni (UF ABA) Champagne Brunch is a signature event of Black Alumni Weekend and an alumni favorite. Gator alumni and guests are promised a delectable champagne breakfast buffet with a special panel of speakers who will bring to life the experiences of Five Decades of Black Alumni. Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince and NAACP National Board Vice Chair Leon Russell discuss Virgil Hawkins’ legacy and Florida Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court case law and civil rights pioneers’ strategies that ultimately integrated higher education throughout the state of Florida. Alumna Gwyn Francis recounts the student sit-in/arrest/walk-out of the early 1970s which led to the establishment of the IBC. Ron Coleman (’68 Track and Field), Willie Jackson, Sr. one of the first two football players to be signed by UF, and Don Gaffney, UF’s first black quarterback, complement the panel with interesting perspectives on their roles and experiences integrating UF Athletics. Alumna Yvette Miley, MSNBC News Vice President and Executive Editor, will shed insight on her formative years at UF and how she has climbed the ladder as a VP in one of America’s leading news agencies. A diverse and representative panel of alumni seated in the audience will relive impressionable moments in UF black alumni history.

Golden Anniversary All-Years, All-Organizations Tailgate Reunion and Watch Party; UF Alumni Athlete Recognition Program

The Institute of Black Culture (IBC) will host Gator alumni from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, and 10s for an all-years, all-organizations tailgate reunion at the Reitz Union Amphitheater. Large screen TVs are reserved in the “Orange and Brew” so Gators can **cheer on the Gator football team** at their road game against Vandy. **A special program is planned to pay tribute to UF’s alumni athletes by decade** and to honor the significant contributions they have made in the 44-years of integrated athletics. ***The Florida Players Network* is collaborating with the ABA on a community service project this weekend.** Join your friends, dorm mates, team mates, class mates, and fraternity/sorority alumni for a festive outdoor tailgate reunion.



Fifty Years of Black Alumni Achievement Dinner and The Half Century Soiree

Reception 6:30 P.M. Saturday's 50th Anniversary Commemoration Dinner is the culminating event of the historic weekend. Music and dance will bring alive the individuals and organizations which were crucial in the formative years of our alumni history. Join fellow Gators, family, and friends of the University as we honor leaders who have made significant contributions to diversity in their professional fields of endeavor or made significant contributions to diversity initiatives at the University of Florida. Recall the favorite hits of your decade as we enjoy the final night of what promises to be a special reunion weekend.

Among our special guests and honorees who have confirmed their attendance: UF's first black student in 1958, George H. Starke, Jr.; UF's first black graduate in 1962, W. George Allen; Gator Pioneers who integrated UF athletics including Ron Coleman (Track and Field), Willie Jackson, Sr., one of two of the first football players to sign at UF, and Don Gaffney, UF's first black quarterback; former UF President Marshall Criser, Jr. who approved the concept and formal establishment of the Association of Black Alumni; Harley Herman, UF alumnus who preserved the legacy of Virgil Hawkins; Mike Ricketts, President and CEO of QPSI, Inc; MSNBC News VP and Executive Editor, Yvette Miley; and Eugene Pettis, president-elect of the Florida Bar, positioning him to be the first African-American leader of the Florida Bar in that organization's 105-year history.

Sunday, October 14th Event

Inspirational Wrap-Up and Farewell /Casual Continental Breakfast Eat-N-Go

Dress comfortably for travel; enjoy the convenience of a light continental breakfast while bidding farewell to Gator friends—see you next year!

Dress Code for Weekend Events:

Golf Outing:	Golf Attire
Opening Ceremony:	Business Casual
Bid Whist/Spades/Socializing:	Casual
Club 101 Downtown:	As Appropriate
Champagne Brunch/Symposium:	(Same as Tailgate Reunion and Watch Party)
Tailgate Reunion and Watch Party:	Game Colors; Watch Party and Tailgate Comfort
50th Commemoration Dinner:	Gentlemen: Coat and Tie Ladies: Equivalent
Inspirational Wrap-Up, Eat-N-Go:	Check-out/Travel Clothes