

Housing and Residence Life

THE VILLAGER

THE GRADUATE & FAMILY HOUSING NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

Reflection

A look back at 2020

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The best stores to find what you're looking for

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**HOUSING &
RESIDENCE LIFE**

STUDENT LIFE | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



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Graduate & Family Housing's

THE VILLAGER

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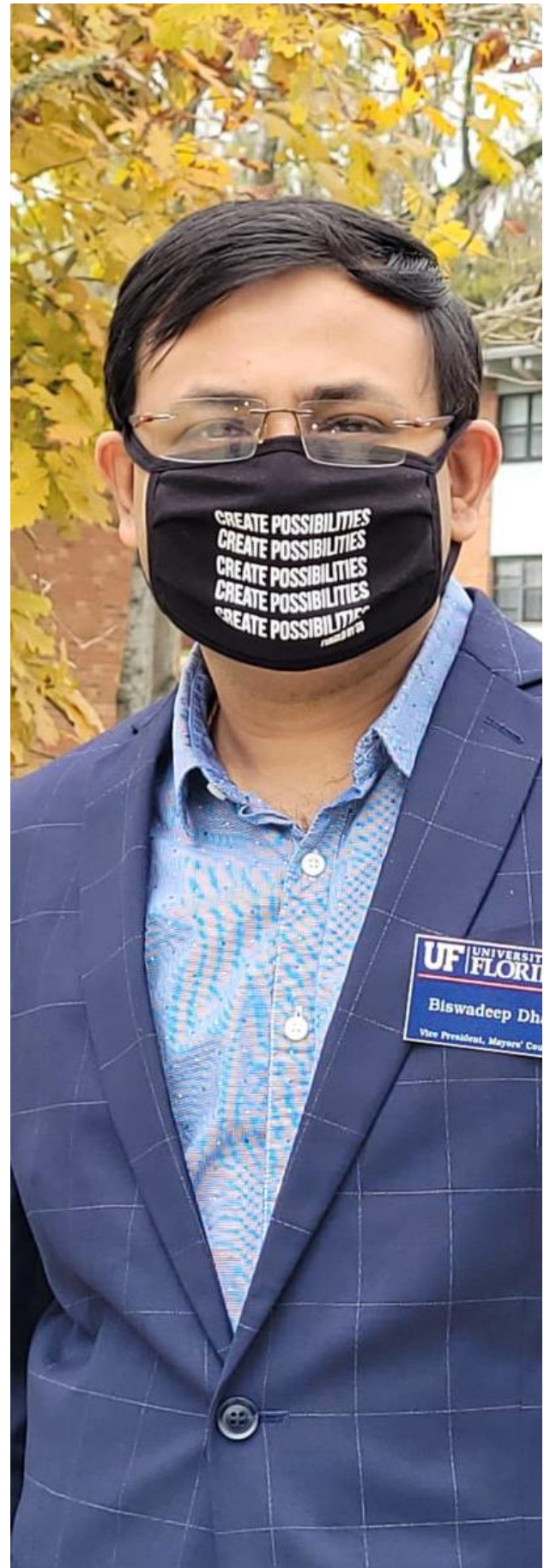
MAYORS' COUNCIL CORNER

Thank you

By: Biswadeep Dhar

It has been three awesome years with Mayors' Council working in collaboration with the Graduate and Family Housing at the University of Florida, where I felt the warm and the sense of belonging at each and every moment. Being a first-generation and an international Gator, I always had the spark within me to go beyond the limits and way beyond the average. My goal was not just to do well in my academics, but to be an all-rounder where my service would also count. After joining the community meetings at Diamond, I got energized with a sense of excitement about living at UF Housing and all it has to offer. It fascinated me that we know so little about how to access the University life. Is there anything we can do to experience them more often and more intensely as our lives unfold? I felt like there were many things to be done and fortunately, there came a day when they were looking for a resident director/mayor of the village.

My experiences from UF Health Street served as a foundational step to working with a bigger community and which were reflected with my service at Mayors' Council for the last three years advocating safety and wellness for the graduate families. I was extremely honored to have been spotlighted for the past two consecutive years by the Division of Student Life Marketing & Strategic Communications for my leadership experiences with UF Housing to celebrate the International Education Week (joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote international education and exchange worldwide).



My satisfaction lies in commitment while providing opportunities and increasing professional development of the international grad students and their families on campus during this unprecedented time which brought me to receive ‘Gators for Good Service Challenge Award’.

Despite the COVID-19 challenges, I feel fortunate to have been working with a fantastic team, where we worked hard and reached out to the community within our highest limits. I knew that it was going to be challenging this time due for several restrictions due to COVID-19, yet our team went ahead and took the challenge for helping our residents remain active through virtual events and provide them with moral support to keep going despite this difficult time. So, I really wanted to say that although we had severe challenges during this unprecedented time, but it is **the ‘Distance which Unites Us’** and which helped us to keep going. My sincere appreciation to UF Housing / Mayors’ Council for giving me this opportunity through a variety of situations. I had a great time working with Ms. Kavindri Ranasinghe as the Mayors’ Council President where we always used to work collaboratively, thus helping to overcome challenges in various situations.

I wanted to mention few names with whom I had great relationships and it was such a pleasure working with these great folks ~ Mr. Jason-Fraser Nash for tolerating me all these times with his tremendous support as Mayors’ Council Advisor, Ms. Eleni Dilma, (Tanglewood Village Mayor) as a very nice colleague and friend for all these times, Ms. Temetria Hargett and Ms. Tara Gallagher from UF Housing for their active support and all time cooperation for which I didn’t feel any pressure while reaching out to them and last but not the least-my lovable and hardworking wife, Ms. Riya Chakraborty

(Diamond Village Mayor) for her sincere dedication and commitment to be working with me right from the beginning, when we started living at Diamond Village.

Finally, I would want to dedicate all my service and honor to my father who passed away in the last year and who always wanted me to contribute something to the society in addition to my research and academics, for making a better quality of life for the people.



Reflection

By Kaila Aimino

As I sit here reflecting the past year, I cannot help but feel several different emotions. Anger at how this pandemic was overall handled. Excitement to see how companies and business innovation to adapt to something no one thought we would need to prepare for. Sadness for the missed friends, missed events, and canceled plans. But overall, I feel hope.

Now full transparency, I was not feeling very hopeful at the beginning. As an extrovert, I thrive off human interaction and being able to be physically with people. Whether that is going out to a local café, spontaneous trips to the movie theater to see the latest film or walking around downtown playing Pokémon Go. Suddenly all of that was put on hold as we prepared ourselves for a country wide shut down. We were told to settle in for a few weeks, maybe a month, and then things would go back to business as usual. One year later things are not back to business.

I began to finally feel hopeful when I saw how people were finding creative ways to stay connected when they could not physically be with them. Video chatting became very popular. Between work and trying to see people, I began to grow tired of staring at my computer screen. Not to mention my eyes were not happy with the amount of screen time I was having. This pushed me to get creative. I saw a nursing home that had residents looking for pen pals since family and friends were unable to visit them. I had never had a pen pal before! So, I signed up and wrote my first letter.

Ms. Maggie grew up in Hendersonville, North Carolina and lived there most of her life. Maggie would tell me often how she loved her independence and the adventures she was able to go on throughout her life. She told me how she chose not to get married because that “was not her cup of tea”, though she very much enjoyed her aunt responsibilities to her 13 nieces and nephews. She wrote in detail her travels across the world which allowed her to connect with people she would have never met. Japan. Australia. South Africa. Almost every country in Europe. She reminded me of how much I missed traveling.

There were a few weeks where we both struggled to write. The events of the summer made a large impact on both Maggie and me, which made it difficult to sit down and write. We found it difficult to find words. We were worried that if we wrote what we were feeling that it would impact the other's desire to respond. Then I took the leap of faith and told Maggie what I was feeling. How the events going on in my

community, in the country had really taken an emotional toll on me. She sent me back pages and pages explaining how she had been holding on to those feelings as well. We continued our normal correspondence, but this time much more vulnerable than before. I told Maggie that I had been offered and accepted a job at the University of Florida. She wrote a full page of how excited she was for me! She had traveled to Florida often with her friends and always loved the trips. We talked often about how we missed being able to see family and friends. We also shared how much we looked forward to getting letters from each other. Maggie talked about how excited she got when the staff would come around with the daily mail and hoped that there was a letter in there for her. I told her how I would run to my mailbox after work. I gave her my new address and timeline for when I was moving down. The first piece of mail that I received here in Florida was from Maggie, welcoming me to the next chapter of my life.

There are a lot of things that I wish were different about this past year. I wish that I was able to attend the concert of my favorite band that reunited after almost a 10-year break. I wish I could have traveled to Canada with my friend from England who I have not seen in 11 years. But what I am thankful that through this I was able to connect with so many people I would have never met or became close to without being pushed to be inventive. I joined a streaming service, Twitch, which led to making so many friends and getting involved in a community. A large amount of people I met through Twitch live in Orlando, which made me feel less nervous about moving almost 1,300 miles away from where I grew up.

I believe we still have a long road ahead of us in so many areas. I do not know how this past year will influence the way we do things in the next year, decade, for the rest of my life. But I am hopeful. I am hopeful that the vaccine will continue to be distributed. I am hopeful that we can continue to talk about and engage in action towards civil rights, police brutality, and the systems of oppression that are pervasive in this country. I am hopeful that all the things I had planned for 2020 will happen at some point.

That may not be in 2021, but soon.



The Unifying Power of Distances

By Nermin Cakmakci

Miles cannot separate people from each other, the internet and telephone wires are enough to keep the connection. Indisputably the technology has an incredible place in our lives. Communication and assistance become easier with it. Certainly, social media is a touchstone in this area. If we are going to give an example, Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, or Twitter. People set up small or large aid campaigns. So they could quickly raise aid for people on the other side of the world. This is an incredible interaction! On the other hand, Zoom has become widespread both in our business life and in our education life. From my pain, I have done all my job interviews and school applications on Zoom and I still continue to do them with it. This tool provides incredible conversation. There are lots of advantages. Internet problem is almost nonexistent, the view is very clear, you can talk to more than one person at the same time, it supports large audiences, it's free, has google calendar support, and easy to use. In short, our life, which was constrained by this pandemic, became one step easier and progressed by connecting from home with Zoom.

My husbands family and my family live in Turkey. During this pandemic, my mother-in-law became ill due to COVID-19. We called her often with my daughters and tried to support her. My girls drew a couple of photos for their grandparents. I am adding a sample picture for you. The people in the picture are grandmother, grandfather and cousins. We used smartphones in this process, which helped us feel closer again. In Turkey, they are still in lockdown. Grandparents are about 70 years old. They just live at home, and their lives have never been easy with these restrictive factors.

That's why it was great for them to talk visually and chat together. Distances are getting closer with love and help. This convergence is both psychological and physiological and sometimes physical.

Distance Unites Us! The secret here is to have a common point with a large population. Most people in the world experienced similar feelings during this pandemic. From time-to-time anxiety, fear, drowsiness, mourning, crying, and possibly joy if he survived the illness. As an international individual, I can also say that distance is not just distance. It brings longing, sadness, strength, weakness, joy, or pain in those millimeters of roads. So, it might say that the distances get closer.

The world is experiencing a pandemic that has never been seen before. Of course, the COVID-19 was not easy for most of us. The effects still continue. Some of us got sick and some of us lost their relatives in this difficult process. The concept of wearing a mask has entered our lives. We are used to living with it, and we are trying to get used to it. We started to get through these difficult times better by approaching sensory, not physically.

Since we are exposed to this pandemic at the same time as the whole world, we had a better understanding of each other.

In addition, there are good things happening in life. This is empathy! There was no need to think about how to be empathetic because we know that the other person experiences similar feelings, thoughts, and difficulties.

People started to understand each other better. Because there are common feelings. As a result, the distances were shorter and brought us closer to each other. There were no celebrations, get togethers and chatting or spending a long time as before, but there are also very nice events. People started a parade of decorated cars for birthdays, graduations, baby showers, or wedding anniversaries. That is grateful support! As a result, people shared their happiness. Even if a little, they felt like the old days. The whole world has a similar feeling, we reach out to each other, we have the same trouble, we are very far from each other but our support for each other brings us closer.

Distances connect! When the Covid-19 outbreak started, there were also incredible unification and aid campaigns. Of course, one of the biggest factors here was technology, because people could reach each other very quickly. They especially supported many healthcare professionals. For instance, according to the report the Points of Light newsletter British therapists support mental health services to their employees.

“British therapists provide mental health services to more than 600 NHS workers Claire Goodwin-Fee and Ellen Waldren, from the United Kingdom, launched ‘Frontline19’, an initiative offering mental health support to National Health Services workers during the pandemic, and for the aftermath. They provide free, online counseling to more than 600 frontline workers, conducted by over 3,000 qualified, volunteer professionals, who are able to assist with a range of services from one-off virtual calls through to 12-week sessions of formal counseling. In a personal letter to Claire, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: “I want to congratulate you on becoming the UK’s 1390th Point of Light, as part of this special series of awards to honor those who are serving others as we battle to defeat Coronavirus.” To contribute to their GoFundMe campaign, click here!” Source: <https://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/frontline19/>

Another example of this internet support was given to families with low income in Philadelphia.

“Free internet coming for 35,000 low-income Philly families in public-private partnership as classrooms stay closed. Philadelphia wants to ensure that all its K-12 students have internet access, so they have what they need to learn remotely during the pandemic, especially as the city’s schools will remain closed to in-person classes this fall. Since the coronavirus forced the school closures this spring, the city has been working with foundations and partners to mobilize funding that will provide broadband internet access for 35,000 kids—and this week they’ve unveiled a program that will make it happen.

PHLConnectED will connect eligible student households with two years of high-speed internet, without any out-of-pocket expenses or installation fees.

Using Comcast's Internet Essentials program, or a high-speed mobile hotspot for families who are housing-insecure, the program will also ensure K-12 public school students have the devices they need (such as a laptop or tablet)—and also tech support to keep it all running smoothly.

The Philadelphia School District recently distributed over 128,000 devices to students who lack them at home. The School District and Charter Schools will continue to work with schools and families to make sure they have the resources they need to succeed. PHLConnectED is the first stage of the city's larger "digital equity" initiative to support digital literacy and access for all Philadelphia residents. The bulk of the funding is being provided by private foundations, including \$7 million from the Comcast NBC Universal Foundation, \$1 million each from the William Penn Foundation and Philadelphia School Partnership, and others. The city will also use \$2 million in local CARES Act funding, without dipping into its general fund, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer."

Source: <https://www.phila.gov/2020-08-06-phlconnected-connecting-k-12-students-to-the-internet/>

I believe that these two incredible cases are the best example of how the distances converge.

The distances are only too far for those who want to stay away. If we want to be close to someone, there are many ways. Please let us work harder for the best we can. A happy person is a person who helps. At least my family and I are trying to be helping people.

Be strong, and move on it's time to be happy again!



ART

A collection of drawings, photos,
paintings and poems from residents in
Graduate and Family Housing.



Letter to Self

By: Julien Habif

A letter to myself.

As I sit down to pen this love letter to you, I can't help but fidget with my pen. A knot begins to form in the pit of my stomach. I know I'm supposed to love myself unconditionally. That all of me is beautiful and that I am whole and imperfectly perfect just as I am.

But...

I hesitate. I have been dreading writing this letter. Because the truth is that I am my most cruel critique – every misstep met with a harangue full of insults hurled directly at my sense of worth. I expect everything from myself and fail to attribute any successes to myself but rather my circumstance.

I acknowledge the self doubt, the critique, the anxiety, my enemy that I name Justin. Because I am not Justin. The pressure did not lead to this diamond, but instead – I am me despite Justin. So now, it's time for Julien to speak.

Because I love you for who you've been

For who you are

And for who you will become.

You love others with all of your being

You give to others, think of others, have compassion for others.

I love you because of your courage – you are brave through your fear – marching into the fire emerges the phoenix.

You stand in your truth. Though difficult and exhausting only truth cleanses.

I love you and wish you'd start acting as though your madly and wholly enamored with your being,

Give yourself permission to love yourself through taking space, being – just being, unapologetically caring for yourself.

There is hope for us Julien. One day we will be united. Gold lining the fissures and cracks from our broken pieces. Strength in the place of our wounds. All are lessons learned and hope anew.

Poems

By: Julien Habif

Need for Human Connection

Why are we here?
What is the purpose.
Existential angst from the endless cycle of life
from birth into death.
Connection.
To hold space with another
even for a brief moment.
Healing. Validating, Illuminating.
All of our motivations condense into the human
need for connection.
In search of connection
or the self-sabotaging act of shielding oneself
from it.
An act of protection from the scars from the
traumas of severed connections.
All from understanding the ethereal power of
connecting.
Connection with others bonds us by allowing us
to feel seen and heard.
Understood.
The act of acknowledging another gives
purpose.
Even if it's through accepting ourselves.
Connecting with nature – a communion like no
other
The self-reflected in the holy water. Anointing
us.
That moment of clarity through reflection of self
whether through another's eyes or holy water.
the mirrors joining our souls into the united
being.
The limitless source of all that ever was and all
that ever will be.
For a moment we understand all, as we are all.
Connection is purpose because we are
connection.

Letting Go

The act of letting go
Releasing it into the universe
Regaining power through relinquishing control.
Why hold the hate, the hurt when you can
liberate yourself into a state of healing and
health
To bask in the nothingness – the void – devoid of
attachment.
Simply existing. Being one with all.
Letting go is not denouncing or announcing
release
it's an internal separation from the attachment.
Not an act of empowerment or control to
leverage power over others or be superior.
It's about you.
You being more fully aware and conscious of self
rather than else.
Release, relinquish and rejoice.

Pictures and Drawings

From Graduate Family Housing Residents



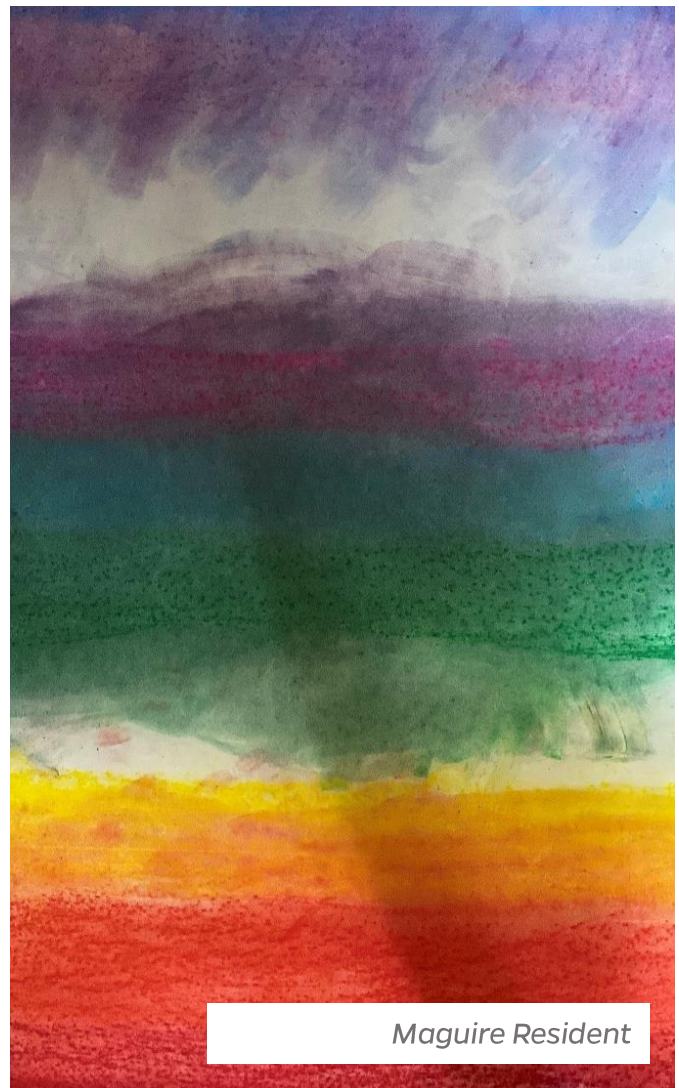
Khloe Sanchez, Corry Resident



Lake Alice by Julien Habif



Corry Resident



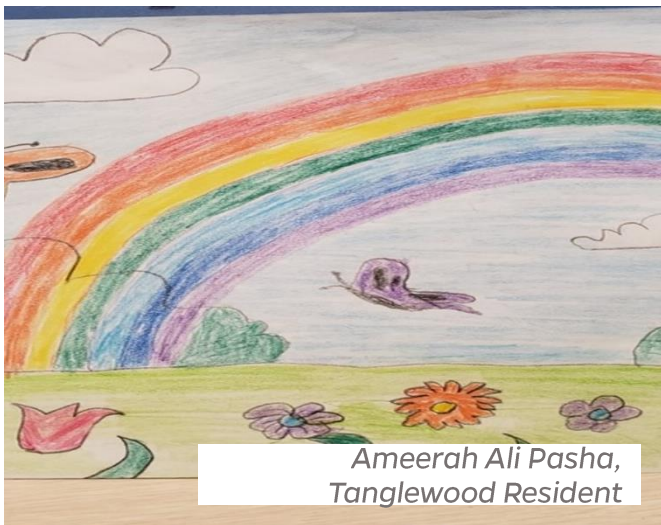
Maguire Resident

Pictures and Drawings

From Graduate Family Housing Residents



Lake Alice by Julien Habif



Ameerah Ali Pasha,
Tanglewood Resident



Corry Resident



University South Village Resident



Resources

Discover what Gainesville and the UF community have to offer



The Slow and Steady Race

The Survival of the Slowest Exhibit is Now Open at the Florida Museum

Bring your family and friends to meet Flash, the sloth, and his easy-going pals inside the “Survival of the Slowest” exhibit at the Florida Museum! Get an up-close look at a live sloth, tortoise, hedgehog and 13 other species of LIVE animals. Learn about the unique adaptations they have developed to survive, despite being slow, small or weak.

“The exhibit has fantastic information in it, but the animals are the real stars of the show,” said Julie Waters, Florida Museum exhibit coordinator.

View the amphibian also known as the Pac-Man frog or discover why bearded dragons wave to each other while getting up-close and personal with these amazing creatures. It is sure to be fun for the whole family!

An on-site keeper is also available to answer questions about these animals as well as ensure they are healthy and happy. Interactive panels and touchscreens reveal the energy use, caloric requirements, speed and conservation status of different animals from around the world.

This is a bilingual exhibit with content in both English and Spanish.

Admission is free for UF students with a valid Gator 1 Card and museum members. Complete ticket pricing is available online at www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/visit/plan.

The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 12, 2021 and the Florida Museum requires masks to be worn by all guests during their visit.

For more information or a full list of animals, visit www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/exhibits/survival.



The Reitz Union Arts and Craft Center

The Arts and Crafts Center, located on the Lower Level of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. It is a unique space on campus where members of the UF community and locals can explore their artistic side in a welcoming environment. Located in the Reitz Union since 1967, the Arts & Crafts Center offers non-credit classes taught by local artisans and offers access to the studio to paint canvases, glaze pre-formed pottery, participate in workshops and meet your BFF's to socialize in a creative environment.

The Arts & Crafts Center's hours are Monday – Friday 1 p.m.– 10 p.m. and Saturday 12 p.m. – 5p.m. Parking in the Welcome Center garage is free after 4:30 p.m. Visit our website at www.union.ufl.edu/acc for lists of workshops and craft-to-go kits. You don't need prior crafting experience to participate.

Paint a Pot

There's a wide variety of unglazed pre-formed ceramic pieces in the paint-a-pot area just waiting for your creative touch. Ceramic pieces and glazes are sold separately and there are many projects that can be completed for under \$10. There are no hourly fees and no additional firing fees. Fired pieces are microwave and dishwasher safe. If you need inspiration, we have idea books and stencils, and the staff are always available to answer questions. Children under the age of 16 are welcome in our paint-a-pot area as long as they are supervised by an adult. At this time, appointments are required to paint in the studio. Appointments may be scheduled through our website. Ceramic pieces and glaze can also be taken home as a kit and brought back to the studio for final clear glaze and firing.

Paint a Canvas or small project

Have a small wood project or want to paint a canvas? We carry a variety of small size canvases and acrylic paints and brushes.

Craft to-go kits

Want to take projects home to create. Check out our origami paper crafts, small clay crafts and others.



Free Events for UF Students

The Arts and Crafts Center is currently hosting a variety of free crafting events for UF students throughout the semester, from take-home kits to in-person events at the Orange and Brew on the Ground Floor of the Reitz Union. Our crafting events are designed to provide students with opportunities to learn new creative techniques and develop their artistic expression in a fun and safe environment.

Virtual Socials

If you are looking for something fun and creative to do with your group, check out our virtual socials! We offer a variety of crafts to choose from. The Arts and Crafts Center will prepare kits for your group to distribute to participants. Socials are conducted on Zoom and include craft demonstrations by our Arts Specialist. Reserve your date today by visiting our website.

Leisure Courses

The Arts and Crafts Center offers a variety of non-credit classes such as wheel throwing, hand-building, ceramic sculpture, jewelry making and painting. To learn more about and register for Leisure Courses, visit leisure.union.ufl.edu. You must be 18 years or older to participate in a leisure course.

Studio Membership

If you already have some crafting experience or have taken one of our classes, we also have weekly and semester-long studio memberships. A studio membership will provide you access to all the tools and equipment in the studio. Ceramic glazes and the firings of your pieces are included in your membership. Clay must be purchased from the Arts and Crafts Center. A limited supply of jewelry materials are also available for purchase. Memberships are available to everyone regardless of UF affiliation. You must be 16 years or older to purchase a studio membership.

Visit our website at www.union.ufl.edu/acc for more information about our facility and programs. You can also reach us by email at ReitzUnionACCStudio@ufsa.ufl.edu and by phone at (352) 392-2378.





International Supermarkets

In Gainesville

La Aurora Latin Market
3721 W. University Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32607

Asian Food Market
3345 SW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32608

Gainesville Russian Food
200 NW 34th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32605

Chun Ching Market 重庆超市
418 NW 8th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32601

Deshi Bazaar
4110 SW 34th St. #4,
Gainesville, FL 32608

India Bazaar
3550 SW 34th St. suite J,
Gainesville, FL 32608

Oriental Food Market
3345 SW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32608

Eastern Market
1349 NW 23rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605

African Unique - International Marketplace
5001 NW 34th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32605

Ward's Supermarket
515 NW 23rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32609

Zeezenia Kitchen and Market
2325 SW 13th St.
Gainesville, FL 32608

(HALAL) (حلال) MEAT & FISH MARKET
5350 SW 34th St. Suite H,
Gainesville, FL 32608

Advice from Student Legal Services

We extend a warm hello to our students at Graduate and Family Housing from the University of Florida Student Legal Services. As you continue your studies and prepare for your career, please be aware of and comply with our state and federal laws. The following briefly identifies typical issues you may face and how to deal with them. As a UF student, if you experience any legal difficulty you should meet with a free and confidential legal professional at UF Student Legal Services, Suite 3500 J. Wayne Reitz Union, phone 352-392-5297; www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu.

- **Automobile Laws**

- ▶ **Drivers Licenses** - Each state has its own set of laws relating to driving conduct. If you drive in Florida, you must comply with Florida's driving laws. If you move to Florida permanently, you must obtain a Florida driver's license. Regardless, we strongly recommend that you obtain a Florida Driver's license if you are driving in the state.
- ▶ **Traffic Tickets** - If you get a traffic ticket, you may be asked to sign it. This is not an admission of guilt, but just saying that you received a copy of it. But if you are asked and don't sign, then it can be a criminal charge.
 - Pay the ticket-you will get points assessed that can suspend your driver's license and make your insurance increase.
 - Take traffic school and pay ticket: keeps points off license.
 - Fight the ticket in court: Request a court hearing.
 - If you have questions, contact Student Legal Services for assistance.
- ▶ **Auto Insurance** - If you own a vehicle in the State of Florida, you are required to have the appropriate automobile insurance. Failure to obtain insurance on a vehicle is a criminal traffic offense and may result in a citation and possibly the loss of your driving privileges. You must also always carry a copy of your insurance card in your automobile. The minimum insurance requirements in Florida are \$10,000 for Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and \$10,000 property damage liability (PDL). We recommend that you obtain higher limits, and also recommend comprehensive and collision insurance, especially if you have a more expensive automobile. If you do not have these types of coverages, you will be responsible for the damage to your car if the accident is your fault or the other party does not have enough insurance coverage for damages.
- ▶ **Renting a Car** - Only authorized drivers listed on the rental contract should operate the vehicle. Insurance does not apply to unauthorized drivers. Check your credit card. Some credit cards will cover damages to rental cars if the rental was charged on that card.
- ▶ **Buying and Selling a Car** - Most used vehicles are sold "as is", without any warranty whatsoever, which usually means the seller has no responsibility once the car is sold. It is a good idea to have an independent mechanic check out the vehicle before buying it. Make sure the seller's name appears on the title. It is helpful if the buyer and seller can meet at the [county tax collector's office](#) to transfer the title. For more information on protecting yourself against any problems, please visit the [Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles](#).



- **Consumer Issues**

- ▶ **Health Insurance** - State universities in Florida require that all students have health coverage during the entire year, including annual breaks. Only students graduating in a given semester may purchase insurance for that semester only with proof of graduation. For more information visit the [International Center](#).
- ▶ **Identity Theft** - Identity theft is stealing another's name and/or social security number in order to obtain their credit, cash, goods or services or even commit crimes. Making use of computers has made it easier for others to steal identity. Do not let criminals make you a victim. Do the following to minimize this possibility: Lock your mailbox and don't give anyone access, shred any documents that have personal information such as your social security or bank account numbers, do not share your social security number with anyone unless absolutely necessary and don't carry your social security card or number in your purse or wallet, do not share credit cards, debit cards, checks and account information with anyone and do not provide anyone with your personal identification number (PIN), and secure your computer and never respond to emails asking for sensitive information such as account numbers or social security numbers. If you are a victim of identity theft contact UFPD and Student Legal Services immediately.
- ▶ **Beware of Internet Scams** - Buying or selling items on the internet? Students have been victims of scams on various Internet sites such as eBay, Amazon, Craigslist and Facebook Market. A common scam is the buyer paying by money order or bank check for an amount over the price listed then having the buyer pay to the seller the extra amount.

Advice from Student Legal Services

- ▶ **Credit Card Use and Abuse** – A credit card is a financial tool that allows you to buy now with the promise that you will pay later. It is a convenient way to carry money without carrying cash. However, each time you use a credit card it is like getting a loan. The credit card company will add interest to your account which you must pay along with the amount due for the purchases made. When obtaining a credit card, make sure you understand the provisions on the application, especially regarding interest payments. Some credit card companies offer a low introductory interest rate, but these rates, after the introductory period, rise substantially. Make sure you protect your credit card by keeping copies of all receipts, carefully examine your monthly statements, do not share personal information and always report a lost or stolen card immediately. You have certain legal rights with credit cards that have been established through the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Truth in Lending Act and the Fair Credit Billing Act. Debit cards are similar to credit cards in appearance. But a debit card is used to pay for things by immediately taking the money out of your bank account; it is not a loan. If you have questions, contact SLS.
- ▶ **Illegal Downloads** - Downloading copyrighted music, movies, TV shows, software and games from the internet without permission is illegal and can result in you paying substantial costs and fees. Before you download, make sure it is authorized and appropriate.

- **Criminal Issues**

- ▶ **Impact of Criminal Conviction**- A criminal conviction can have lasting effects for both domestic and international students. In particular, as an international student, a criminal act which constitutes “moral turpitude” (such as theft) can result in deportation. Bad acts and criminal convictions can lead to academic discipline by the University, denial of employment or future educational programs and if related to drug use, may impact your ability for federal student loans, grants or financial aid. If you have any questions about criminal laws, or if you have any trouble, you should contact SLS right away.
- ▶ **Alcohol Use and Abuse** - The drinking age is 21. If you are under 21 you may not possess or consume alcohol. You do not have to be drinking the alcohol to be in violation of the law; mere possession is a crime. Providing alcohol to one who is under the age of 21 is also a crime.
- ▶ **False Identification** - It is a crime to use a fake I.D. or someone else’s I.D. in Florida. It is a serious crime (a felony) to even be in possession of a fake I.D. card.
- ▶ **Cyber Solicitation** - The age of consent varies by state law. Generally 18 years old in Florida. It is a felony crime to solicit a minor for sex in any form, including using computers, phone apps, or viewing underage pornography. Sanctions can be severe with imprisonment up to life and being designated as a sexual offender/sexual predator. Non-U.S. citizens likely to be deported just based on the allegations.

- ▶ **Driving Under the Influence** - One bad drinking and driving decision can cost lives and have lifetime consequences. There are many alternatives these days including Uber, Lyft, Taxis, LaterGator, and SNAP. You can be arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs based on a Breath test and/or a field sobriety test (walking a line, finger to nose exercise, standing on one leg, checking eyes). If you blow over .08 (blood alcohol content), you will receive a 6-month DL suspension. If you refuse, you will receive a 1-year DL suspension. Remember that it is not whether or not you are driving, but whether you are in actual physical control of your automobile. You can be charged with a DUI if you are sleeping it off in your car with the keys in the ignition or close by.

Remember that A DUI can cost lives, get you deported, and a conviction can cost \$10,000 and can never be expunged for background checks.

- ▶ **Stalking**- If someone tells you not to contact them again, cease ALL communications. This includes, direct contact, giving gifts, emails, text messages and social media. If you do not, this unwanted contact can potentially be charged as stalking.

- **Other Legal Issues**

- ▶ **Social Networking** - Internet companies allow students to post and share personal information on the internet. The most well-known are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Do not post information on these sites that you do not want to make public. Although you may control the initial distribution, you cannot prevent those who receive this information from making it public to others. Many employers run internet background checks as do admission counselors at various universities and colleges. If they find any postings to be inappropriate or offensive they may deny your application.
- ▶ **Immigration** - Although SLS is unable to assist on immigration or visa-related matters, please contact us as we can refer you to a local professional who may be able to provide assistance.
- ▶ **Plagiarism and Intellectual Property** - This relates to items created in the mind. You may not copy others work. You may not “cut and paste” work from the internet and present it as your own. Even assignments done in a group may require your own final work product. If you are not sure of the instructors’ expectations, make sure you find out what is and is not permitted.

Your Legal Resources

UF Student Legal Services
3500 J. Wayne Reitz Union
P.O. Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611-8505
Tel: 352-392-5297
Studentlegalservices.ufl.edu

University of Florida Police Department
352-392-1111 or 911
Police.ufl.edu

UF Office of Victim Services
352-392-5648
Police.ufl.edu

Gainesville Police Department
352-393-7500
Gainesvillepd.org

Alachua County Sheriff's Office
352-367-4000

Alachuasheriff.org

Alachua County Crisis Center
352-264-6789

Alachuacounty.us

Veterans Affairs Hospital
352-376-1611

NorthFlorida.va.gov

UF Health Shands Hospital
352-265-01111
UFHealth.org



The Away Program

For Graduate and Family Housing

Want to make sure nothing happens to your apartment while you're out of town? Consider participating in the Away Program. The Away Program lets Housing and Residence Life staff know when you will be leaving your apartment for an extended period of time, which is generally two weeks or longer. This allows for staff to check in from time to time for any pest issues, or minor repairs that need to take place in your absence.

While you are away staff will schedule bi-weekly visits to your apartment to ensure everything has been stored appropriately and there is no opportunity for pests to develop. Additionally, staff will monitor the apartments humidity and moisture to prevent any future problems. If any issues are found, staff will report the concern and work to resolve it, so you don't have to worry about it when you come back.

To participate in this program you must request an Away Program packet from your area desk. This packet will explain the program in detail and request your signature.

After you have signed the packet, you will need to submit an iService request and return your signed packet back to your area desk.

Please note that while you are away, you will still be responsible for electricity usage.

Before you Leave Checklist

Please complete the below checklist before leaving your apartment for extended periods of time.

- ☐ Remove all personal items from the breezeway and balconies
- ☐ Set your air conditioning to 75 degrees Fahrenheit - This will prevent moisture build up in your apartment.
- ☐ Ensure all of your electricity breakers are on – This will ensure that your smoke detectors and your air conditioner remains operational.
- ☐ Open blinds in all rooms. This helps with the humidity inside your apartment.
- ☐ Remove perishable food from cupboards, counters, and your refrigerator.
- ☐ Clean all dishes
- ☐ Place packing tape over the overflow holes in your bathroom sink and tub to prevent the traps from drying out and pests coming in.
- ☐ Unplug all non-essential electronics such as televisions, lights, clocks, computers, and radios.
- ☐ Empty all trash
- ☐ Close and lock all windows and doors.





THANK YOU FOR READING!

We hope you have enjoyed the Summer edition of The Villager. If you are interested in contributing to our newsletter or interested in learning about specific topics, please contact our editor, **Hanane Sanchez**, at **HSanchez@ufsa.ufl.edu**

UF

**HOUSING &
RESIDENCE LIFE**

STUDENT LIFE | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA