

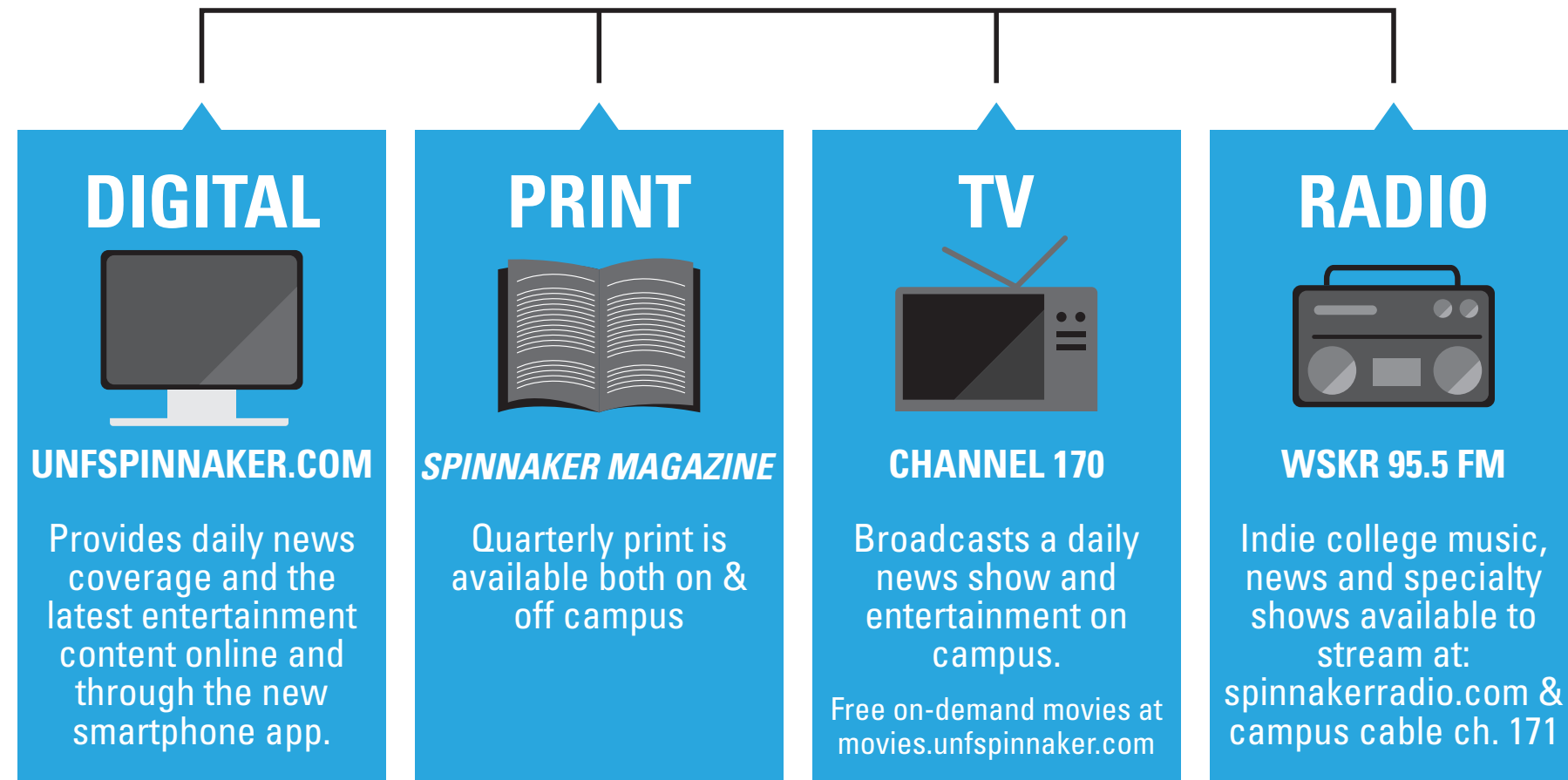
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UNF HOMECOMING FULL EVENT SCHEDULE

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Homecoming events



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

ALUMNI RECOGNITION DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Time: 6p.m.
Location: UNF Student Union Ballroom

LIP SYNC

Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Lazzara Theater

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

THIRD THURSDAY AT MOCA

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Museum of Contemporary Arts

ADOPT A PLAYER (BASKETBALL)

Time: An hour before all games
Location: UNF Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NJIT

Time: 7 p.m.
Location: UNF Arena

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

UNF FORE SCHOLARSHIPS GOLF CLASSIC

Time: 8 a.m.
Location: Atlantic Beach Country Club

CAN CASTLE COMPETITION

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Osprey Plaza

NIGHT OF FUN

Time: 6 – 10 p.m.
Location: Osprey Plaza at the Student Union
and Amphitheater

BIN WAR

Time: During Night of Fun
Location: Osprey Plaza at the Student Union
and Amphitheater

RED BULL PLAY AND DESTROY

Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Osprey Plaza at the Student Union
and Amphitheater

BLUE AND GRAY BASH

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: UNF Field House

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

SWOOP THE LOOP 5K & FUN RUN

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: UNF Student Union Plaza

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON & INDUCTION CEREMONY

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: UNF Student Union Ballroom

HOMECOMING TRUNK SHOW

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Lot 18

OSPREY TAILGATE CLASSIC

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Lot 18

TENT CITY

Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Arena Plaza

BASKETBALL GAME VS USC UPSTATE

Time: 4 p.m. (Women's Game) and 7 p.m.
(Men's Game)
Location: UNF Arena

Spinnaker

University of North Florida

Spring 16

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ARTIST PROFILE: TRACEY TANNER

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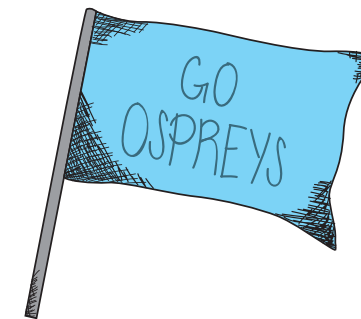
A TAILGATER'S GUIDE TO UNF HOMECOMING

By Alex Lassen | Staff Reporter

Illustrations by Madison Davell

It's that time of year again — homecoming season. With over a dozen exciting events, including basketball games and contests like Mr. and Mrs. UNF, there are plenty of opportunities to relax. But perhaps the most anticipated event of all is the annual Osprey Tailgate Classic.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, from 3-6 p.m., students will have the opportunity to create their own tailgate structures — with the most creative ones receiving first, second and third place. Judges will award points to the structures at any given time, so to those participating: make sure your structure always looks on point! If you're thinking about participating, here are five handy tips on how to create an exciting and memorable tailgate.



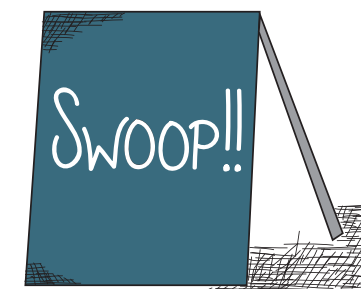
REP YOUR SQUAD

Whether you're in Greek life, athletics or a club, represent your organization with pride! Waving a giant flag at your structure is the obvious way to show pride, but you'll need more than that to be the best. Painting on your tailgate area and wearing creative attire are definitely starting points.



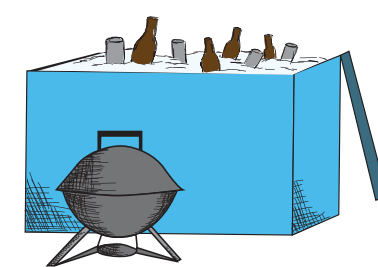
ORIGINALITY

Brand your team. Make your structure stand out. Can you spot your tailgate from the opposite side of Lot 18? Is there something about your structure that none of the other teams have?



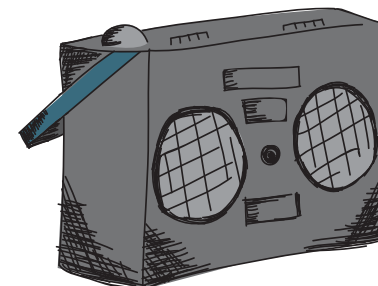
OSPREY PRIDE

To come out on top in tailgating, you'll need to rep UNF. For those who have forgotten, our mascot is an Osprey and our colors are blue and grey. Incorporate these colors! Perhaps even paint or carve the word "SWOOP" into your structure. The sky is the limit when you fly like an Osprey.



TAILGATE SETUP

Looks aren't everything. Your tailgate needs to be interactive and fun to maneuver around. Have drinks at an easy-access spot. Grill out. Spread out a few tables to plop the burgers and dogs at. Perhaps have a game of cornhole set up to entertain those who don't stay still.



MUSIC & FOOD

Set up that playlist and keep the bass bumping — but keep a variety of tunes in the queue, varying from country, classic rock, rap and electronic. Next, there should always be a grill captain whipping up some fresh burgers. Also try to keep some meat-free staples, such as tofu, baked beans, chips and fries.

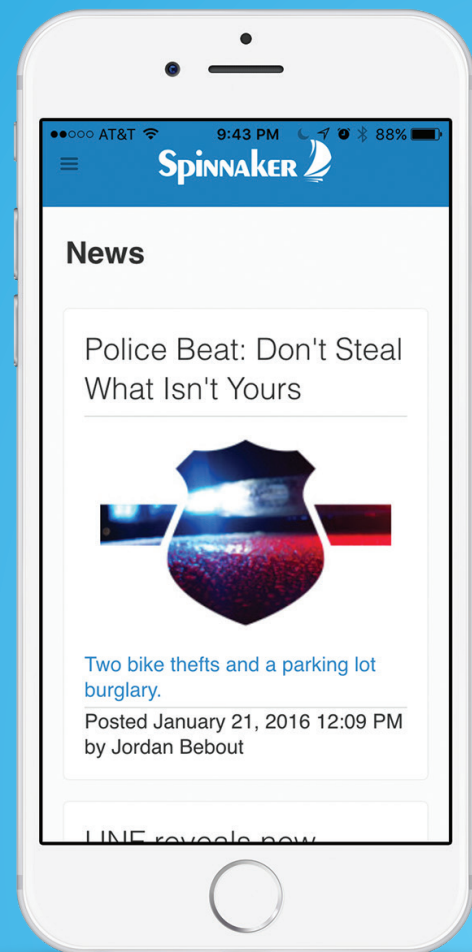


BE SAFE

Not to sound like your overbearing mom on the phone, but make sure your tailgate is safe! If you're building a structure out of wood or steel, test it out a few times to ensure that it's not potentially dangerous when around tipsy college kids. Have plenty of water on hand, as you never know when someone could become dehydrated or sick.

HOMECOMING IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE THAT
NOBODY WANTS TO MISS. SO GET READY, GET SET, AND HAVE FUN!

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HOMECOMING GETS COLLABORATIVE

A REVAMPED HOMECOMING COMMITTEE IS BEHIND SOME CHANGES TO THIS YEAR'S FESTIVITIES

By Courtney Stringfellow | Staff Reporter

Homecoming at UNF has traditionally been led by and centered around students. But this season, students and alumni have collaborated in an effort to make sure Ospreys “Go big and come home.”

The Homecoming Committee, which previously was heavily populated with students, has been meeting since last summer to organize student and alumni events. This is the first time the committee will center homecoming around the two groups.

Chris Decent, assistant vice president for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, and Osprey Productions Director Katie Jackson both agree that planning is going well.

Decent wants students to know that including alumni in homecoming is not supposed to be a competition between students and alumni.

“I think when we started, the message that we probably needed to get across, first, to everybody, was that we’re not here to change anything that the students are doing,” Decent said.

For Jackson, who worked on the Homecoming Committee in 2014, another set of individuals equals more opportunities.

“I can see the big differences made between having all the people involved as far as being able to get sponsors,” Jackson commented. She said that having more diversity in ideas and opinions will lead to better decisions and experiences for homecoming.

This year’s tagline, “Go big and come home,” is centered around the idea that UNF wants its Ospreys to accomplish their dreams once they leave the university and return home to see how the university has changed and is improving.

Signs throughout the course will present alumni with fun facts about UNF during Swoop the Loop. The 5K has traditionally been directed around the university, but the committee decided to direct the course through campus this year to allow alumni to see more of UNF.

Jackson said the change to include alumni encourages them to visit UNF and students to network with alumni so that they will visit campus after graduation.

Another aspect of homecoming that differs from past years is the logo.

“There have been logos for Homecoming, but the student side has always driven that,” Decent said. “Now there’s one that we both own.”

Even though students and alumni are united through organizing homecoming and creating its logo, funding is separate. The UNF Foundation and sponsors are responsible for alumni events while Student Life and Services and sponsors are responsible for student events.

Decent hopes that will change in the future. “My hope is that two or three years from now, more and more of homecoming is funded by our sponsors and the community,” Decent said.

The community can expect homecoming to continue as a collaboration between students and alumni for years to come.

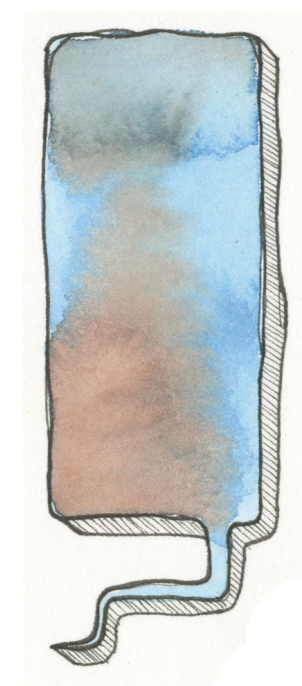


See more of what Katie Jackson and Chris Decent have to say about homecoming on the next page.

Q&A WITH THE HOMECOMING ORGANIZERS

GO BIG AND COME HOME

This year marks the first time there has been a university-wide committee, composed of students and staff, to collaborate on the planning and execution of Homecoming Week. So it will be a memorable experience for current students and alums coming back to campus. *Spinnaker* posed some questions to Katie Jackson, Osprey Productions Director and Chris Decent, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.



WHY IS HOMECOMING IMPORTANT?

Katie: Homecoming is important because it is a way for the school to unite and show school spirit. Homecoming is one of the most important traditions for UNF. Homecoming Week holds many traditions for UNF such as the annual comedy show. It allows the university a chance to come together and have pride for the school. It is a week full of events that connects alumni, students and the entire Jacksonville community.

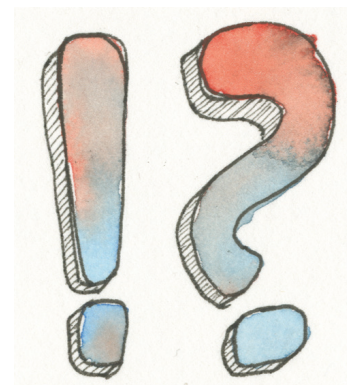
Chris: For alumni, homecoming is an opportunity to return to campus and meet up with old friends. It's also a chance to see all the changes on campus at UNF. Often our alumni note that they can't believe how much campus has changed, especially when they see pictures of campus today on social media. We want our alumni to come back to UNF and see these changes first-hand.

This year, we have blended together as many events as possible to highlight the connection between our students and alumni. Both groups will run/walk together for the Swoop the Loop 5K, we will have alumni judges for both Lip Sync and Mr. and Ms. UNF, and students will be present for our Alumni Awards Ceremony and 1972 Emeriti & Friends Luncheon. It is this intentional blend of alumni and students that makes the 2016 Homecoming truly special.

WHY SHOULD ALUMNI PARTICIPATE?

Chris: Simply put, UNF rocks! We know our alumni enjoyed their time on campus, and now we want them to “come home” to UNF and even bring family and friends! As head men's basketball Coach Matthew Driscoll says, “UNF is a diamond in the rough.” When people step on campus at UNF, they are constantly amazed at all that UNF has to offer. State of the art learning, championship-caliber athletics, beautiful green spaces — and that is just the start.

Katie: Alumni should participate because it gives them a chance to relive their college days and re-connect with the University. It is great for alumni to see how much UNF has changed and is growing. As the tag line says this year, we want alumni to “Go Big and Come Home.”



WHY SHOULD STUDENTS PARTICIPATE?

Katie: Students should participate because it is an opportunity for them to make friends and feel connected to the university. The competitive side of homecoming allows students from any parts of the university such as clubs, Greeks and even simply a group of friends to compete together for a chance to win homecoming. It also allows students a chance to become connected to the university. We want students to see UNF as their “home”, so one day they will want to “Go Big and Come Home,” too.

Chris: Homecoming is about being a part of traditions and also building your own traditions. That's the number one reason students should participate — to build their own traditions. Remember that amazing act during Lip Sync? Probably not if you didn't attend. Or what about seeing the impact of Can Castle in person? It's hard to put into words if you weren't there. Years from now when our students are alumni, we want them to come back to UNF for homecoming and reminisce about the things they participated in. We actually ran a homecoming commercial this year with the punch line “Don't grow a garden in your beard. Come to homecoming.” While the commercial itself was comical, it did highlight something that applies to both students and alumni. Don't wait around! Come to homecoming, experience it for yourself, and make your own memories.



Follow this link to see the homecoming commercial Chris mentioned.

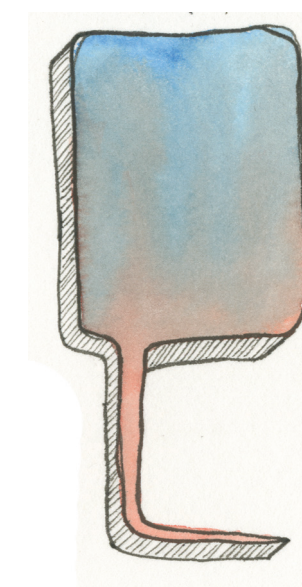
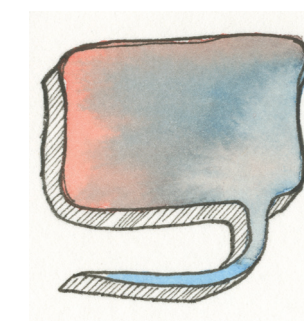
HOW IS HOMECOMING AT UNF UNIQUE OR DIFFERENT COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS?

Katie: Homecoming at UNF is unique compared to other universities because of the fact that our homecoming is centered around basketball and occurs in the spring semester. There are other universities that do this as well but for most universities homecoming is focused on football. We have had to be creative in coming up with ways to make homecoming work for basketball. For example, this year we are having a Trunk Show instead of a parade, where organizations decorate trunks and their vehicles and students/the community walk around the see the showpieces, or how we announce the winners of homecoming at the basketball game.

Chris: And to me that is a great opportunity. Rather than homecoming centering around one sporting event, we have three basketball games, three baseball games, and the Coaches Radio Show! In all, I would say that what makes UNF Homecoming unique is the breadth of activities throughout the week. Whether you are a student or an alum, there is literally something every day for you to “Go Big and Come Home” to UNF.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

Katie and Chris: We'd like to give special thanks to Student Government President Hailey Guerra, the entire Homecoming Committee, and Osprey Productions Staff, including: Jennifer Perkins, Kelly Gates, Jessica LeClair, Eric Nappy, John Simms, Meg Haglin, Margaret Szerba, Lucy Croft, Lauren Hodge, Lauren Brooks, Courtney King, Lee Anderson, Laura Berger, Tia Wrigley, and David Guerrero. With this kind of teamwork, we know everyone will Go Big and Come Home!



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• TUESDAY •

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SHOW WITH MATTHEW DRISCOLL
PRESENTED BY HI-FI AND ENJOY
THESE FOOD AND DRINK SPECIALS

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\$2.00 BUD, COORS
& YUENGLING DRAFTS
\$1 OFF ANY BURGER
\$3.00 MILKSHAKES



• AWAY GAME WATCH PARTY •

Cheer on the Ospreys Men's Basketball Team
at The Boathouse as they play on the road
[does not include Saturday away games].

• PRE-GAME SPECIALS •

COME GET PUMPED BEFORE EVERY HOME MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME

5PM-7PM

\$2.00 BUD, COORS
& YUENGLING DRAFTS

\$0.75 WINGS

\$5.99 BUFFALO CHICKEN SANDWICH & FRIES

\$6.99 ANY BURGER & FRIES

\$2.99 MILKSHAKES

• WEDNESDAY •

MOVIE NIGHT SPECIALS

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BASKET OF FRIES FOR \$2.25

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Friday

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• HOURS •

• THURSDAY •

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(EXCLUDING HAPPY HOUR)

5PM-CLOSE

\$2.00 BUD, COORS
& YUENGLING DRAFTS

\$2.50 WELL DRINKS



THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK

By [Al Huffman](#) | Staff Reporter

Everyone at North Florida knows and loves the iconic Ozzie the Osprey, but one part of Ozzie that goes unnoticed is the story of the man inside the costume. Matt Biegun, the man behind the mask, sat down with us to discuss a little bit of Ozzie’s history, and a little bit about himself.

After graduating with a degree in broadcast communications from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania in 2002, Biegun did mascot work around Jacksonville before ever suiting up as the Osprey.

Biegun didn’t acquire the job by traditional means. In fact, getting the job ten years ago was unexpected, as he didn’t know there was even a job to apply for.

“THE MASCOT DIDN’T REALLY HAVE AN IDENTITY AT ALL.

“So I was doing a mascot job for Adventure Landing,” Biegun said. “I created a character for them and we went to a few UNF games. [Those events] would’ve been almost ten years ago. At that point there was no Ozzie. I guess the marketing director had trouble keeping someone in the suit.”

When Beigun went to what would’ve been Harriet and Ozzie’s birthday (the anniversary of the mascots’ debut) and no Harriet and Ozzie showed up, the marketing director offered Biegun the job on the spot.

One factor that helped Biegun own the character and make it his own was that the mascot didn’t really have an identity at all.

“If I walked around campus, a lot of people didn’t know who Ozzie was, so rebranding was definitely a big thing,” Biegun said. “Trying to make him a little bit cooler was one of the steps we took.”

The resurgence of the character merited a new costume to go with his new identity. A change that didn’t come lightly because mascot costumes are deceptively expensive.



According to Biegun the mascot for the Jacksonville Sharks cost in the ballpark of \$50,000. This commitment to rebranding has made all the difference in Biegun’s view.

Many universities, particularly smaller universities, will employ a student to be the mascot, and Biegun has to juggle his mascot duties with another full-time job and a family with three children. A feat not many can pull off. The hectic life isn’t easy for him, but Biegun is happy to do so. To him it’s nothing more than a labor of love.

According to Biegun, the hardest job he has is being the father of three children: a seven-year-old, a

“HE BECOMES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN HE PUTS ON THE SUIT.

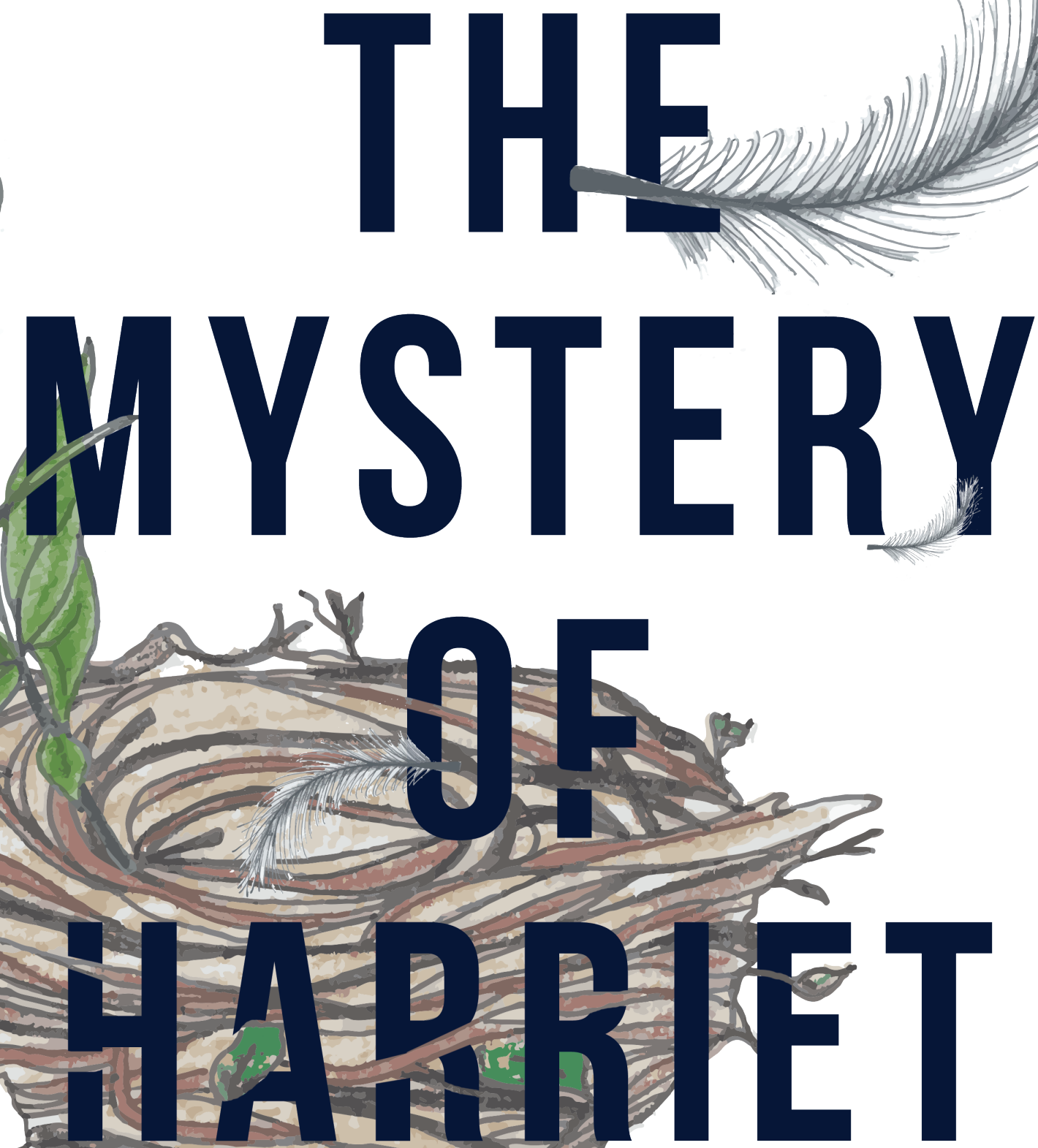
three-year-old, and an eight-month-old. Aside from his home life and mascot gig, Biegun works for Duval County Public Schools. He is the supervisor of video in the communications department. He does commercials, production “things” and voice overs (ironc, considering Ozzie himself is rather tight-beaked).

The way he puts it, it’s like he becomes a completely

different person when he puts on the suit.

“When you come into the arena and you hear the fans, you hear the team warming up,” Biegun said. “Once the suit’s on, it kind of becomes that boost and it’s all over from there. I’ll go into kind of like this trance and I just become Ozzie. It’s kind of hard to explain.”





THE MYSTERY OF HARRIET

By Elizabeth Norton | Staff Reporter

Everyone knows Ozzie the Osprey — our feathered mascot that swoops through campus and sporting events. But Ozzie hasn't been the only mascot in the nest. A few years ago there was a female osprey mascot by the name of Harriet. *Spinnaker* went digging for information about Harriet and her absence, but turned up very little. There is no distinct year as to when Harriet disappeared but we do know when Harriet swooped in.

It was September 20th, 1995 at UNF's annual Club Fest when the new Ozzie and Harriet were unveiled together. Ozzie was around for years before Harriet, but according to *Spinnaker* archives a student senator, Ronel Laurent, said the old Ozzie's costume was unsightly, and called for a revamping.

Some students at the time said Ozzie looked like a bald eagle more than an osprey. So naturally, student leaders replaced the old Ozzie with the new Ozzie...and Harriet.

"It shows more spirit than the old one," Laurent told *Spinnaker* at the time. "I thought it would be better if we had male and female mascots."

And thus Harriet was born.

Harriet made appearances for over ten years at many campus events. *Spinnaker* searched for more information about Harriet and her disappearance, but found nothing definitive.

Some theories that surfaced suggest Harriet's costume was old and tattered and there wasn't enough funding to fix it. Some say no one was willing to continue playing the role.

Between 2009 and 2011 Harriet seems to have faded from the picture and Ozzie took the lead as UNF's primary mascot. Only a few photos, videos, and articles are left to prove Harriet existed before she vanished.

To solve this msytery, *Spinnaker* is asking current and former students, faculty and community members to reach out to us if they have any concrete information on Harriet's exit from UNF. Email publisher@unfspinnaker.com or call our tip line at 904-620-2727.

KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HARRIET? TELL US:
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☎ CALL OUR TIPLINE AT (904) 620-2727

OZZIE THROUGH THE AGES

WHEN THE MASCOT WAS OFFICIALLY INTRODUCED IN 1979 AFTER MUCH DEBATE IN THE UNF COMMUNITY, THE SCHOOL WAS JUST SEVEN YEARS OLD. OZZIE HAS GONE THROUGH MANY CHANGES SINCE HE FIRST SHOWED UP ON CAMPUS.

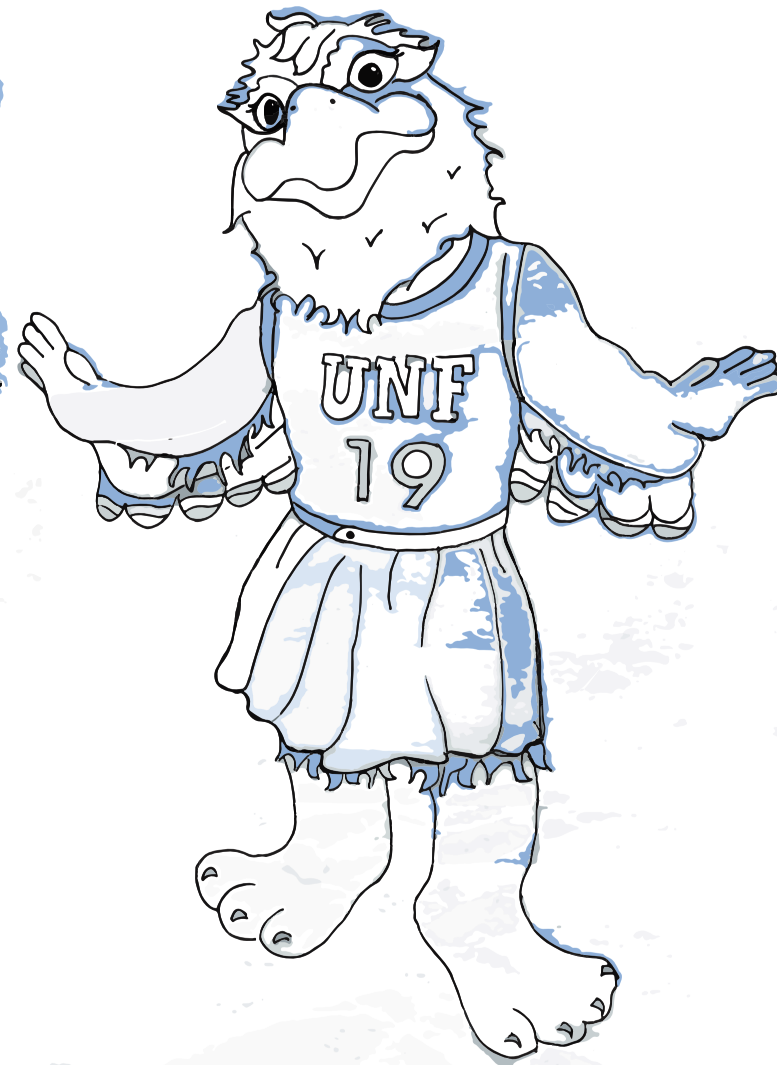
Illustrations by Mariana Martins



This caricature was introduced in November 1979, when the osprey was officially adopted as UNF's mascot. This character was styled by John Morrell.



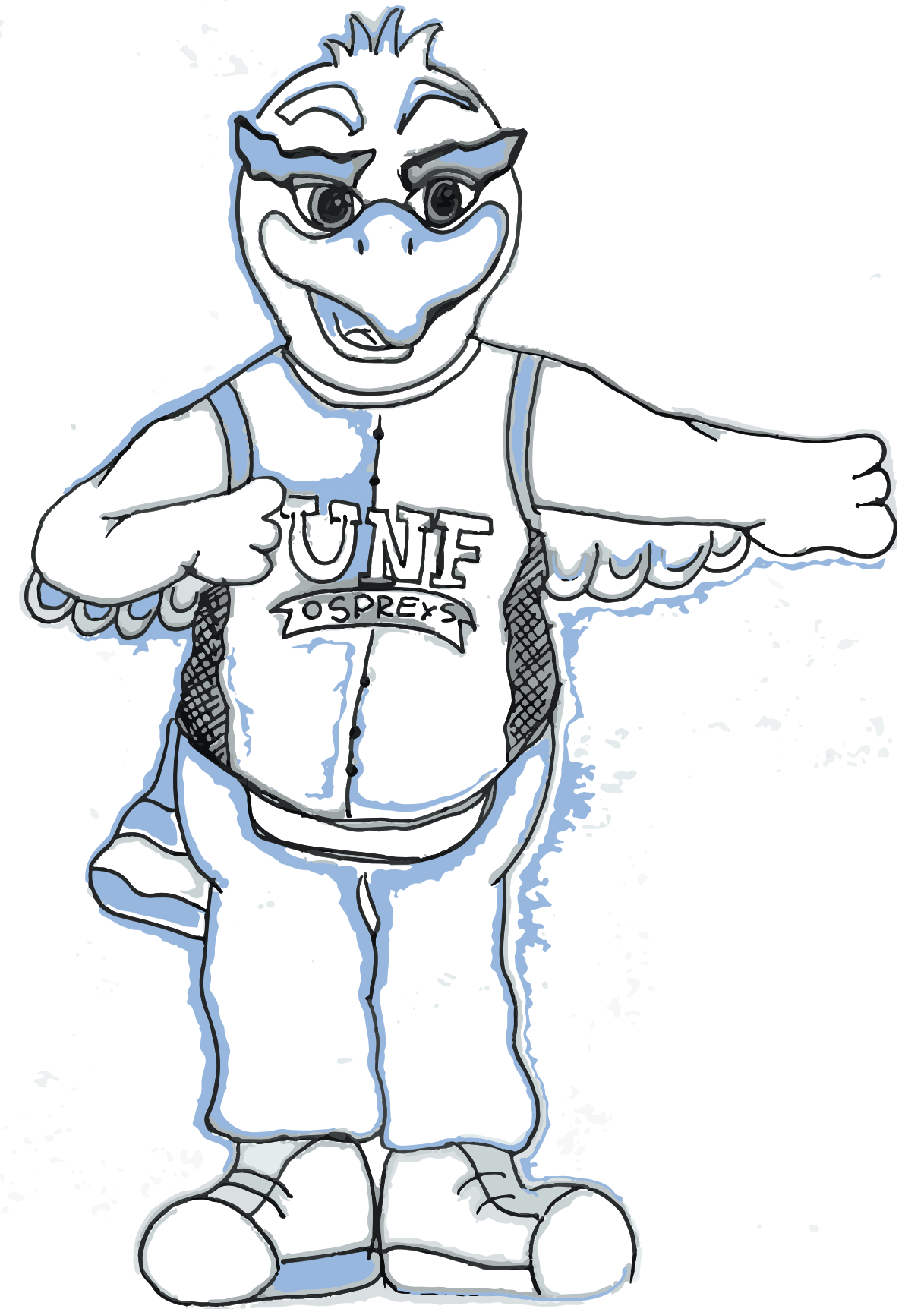
Thanks to funding from the Presidential Envoys, UNF received an official mascot costume in January 1988. The costume cost over \$800, and applications were opened to students to fill the position of UNF mascot.



Harriet was revealed as Ozzie's counterpart in 1995 in response to complaints that the former mascot, at left, was "unsightly." She was taken out of rotation several years ago.



The above version of Ozzie is the current mascot's predecessor, and sported a jersey with the number 72. At right, the present day Ozzie stands tall in his first ever footwear.





PROTECTING THE HOMEFRONT: OSPREY SPORTS DURING HOMECOMING WEEK

By Joslyn Simmons | Staff Reporter

Check out these games as the 2015-2016 basketball regular season is wrapping up and see who the Ospreys are defending their nest against.

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

Men’s basketball faces off against the NJIT Highlanders with a 7 p.m. tipoff. During the game, Mr. and Mrs. UNF will be crowned.

Earlier this season, the Ospreys defeated the league newcomer in New Jersey 94-80 behind a program record with 20 3-pointers.

PLAYERS TO LOOK FOR:

Dallas Moore (UNF) contributed a game-high 29 points in the last matchup.

Beau Beech (UNF) nailed six 3-pointers out of the Ospreys’ 20.

Ky Howard (NJIT) tallied up 16 points and four rebounds during the first meeting.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Women’s basketball starts off the day with a 2 p.m. tipoff against the USC Upstate Spartans.

Earlier this season, the Ospreys were defeated 69-54 after five Spartans ended the game with double figures in Spartanburg, South Carolina. UNF looks to split this season’s meetings with a win on their home court.

PLAYERS TO LOOK FOR:

Sierra Shepard (UNF) dropped 16 points and three steals in the previous meeting.

Claire Ioannidis (UNF) added 16 points and dished out three assists over the Spartans.

Raven Johnson (USC Upstate) led the game with 20 points and seven rebounds.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Ospreys’ baseball opens their 2015-2016 season with a weekend series against the George Washington Colonials at Harmon Stadium.

Last year, UNF finished the season with a 45-16 overall record and lost to Lipscomb in the final round of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament.

First pitch is at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Men’s basketball closes the night with a 7 p.m. tipoff against the USC Upstate Spartans. Before the game concludes, the homecoming winners will be announced.

Earlier this season, the Ospreys sealed a 78-62 victory in Spartanburg, South Carolina, six UNF players scored double figures. During their previous meeting, the Spartans committed 12 turnovers against the Ospreys’ defense.

PLAYERS TO LOOK FOR:

Nick Malonga (UNF) had 16 points, reeled in six rebounds and grabbed two steals in Hodge Center.

Demarcus “BaeBae” Daniels (UNF) came off the bench to add 12 points and six rebounds.

Michael Buchanan (USC Upstate) led the game with 31 points, seven rebounds and two blocks.

Clockwise from top left:

- 1 — Destinee Smith (5) attempts a layup for the Ospreys.
- 2 — Jalen Nesbitt (0) jumps toward the hoop.
- 3 — Dallas Moore (14) powers through the defensive line.
- 4 — UNF’s dugout goes wild after a homerun hit.
- 5 — The crowd raises their hands in support of the Ospreys.

On air now!

