

THE GRADUATE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Greetings, fellow graduate students! After having CAMWS in two fairly central (and therefore colder) cities, the 2006 meeting will be held in sunny Gainesville, Florida at the Holiday Inn West (7417 W. Newberry Road: 352-332-7500). April is a wonderful time of year to be in Gainesville, with highs in the upper 70's to low 80's, and nighttime temperatures around 55-65. Gainesville is the home of the University of Florida and its 46,000 students, and the size of the university and the success of its athletic teams gives Gainesville an exciting student culture. You will find numerous bars, restaurants, and other fine social establishments, as well as museums, nature parks, and abundant outdoor activities. We at the GSIC have provided for you here tips about dining and entertainment options near the meeting headquarters and throughout the city, since we have the inside scoop (i.e. one of us did their grad work at UF). Should you have questions or other tips, please contact any member of the GSIC; you can find our email addresses on the main GSIC page.

Getting To Gainesville

Gainesville is served primarily by Gainesville Regional Airport (abbr. GNV; 352-373-0249). Service to Gainesville usually goes through Memphis, Charlotte, or Atlanta, and prices can be expensive since it is only a regional airport, but Jon has had good luck getting cheap flights through Student Universe (<http://www.studentuniverse.com>) and Orbitz (<http://www.orbitz.com>). If you choose to fly into Gainesville, you will need to catch a cab or rent a car in order to get to the Holiday Inn West, which is located roughly 13 miles from the airport.

Jacksonville International Airport (abbr. JAX) would be a good second choice if you are flying in to the conference. You will generally find much cheaper fares in and out of Jacksonville, but you will need to rent a car. JAX is located approximately 80 miles from Gainesville.

You may also find good fares into either Orlando or Tampa. You'll definitely need to rent a car if you fly into either one of these cities; it's very easy to get to Gainesville from both cities, though be prepared for tolls.

Driving is always an option, though you'll be looking at a bit of a road trip from most states not part of the Confederacy. You can find directions from your particular online server of choice. See below for the exact address for the Holiday Inn West.

Restaurants

Gainesville has two things in abundance: bars and restaurants. The list below is no means comprehensive, but it does try to include places close to the conference center and also some of the local favorites.

Napolatano's: Located right across the street from the HIW, this is a good Italian restaurant with reasonable prices. Also has a good lunch menu and a sports bar type section. 606 NW 75th Street: 352-332-6671. UPDATE – This restaurant recently burned

to the ground, but may very well be back up and running by the time CAMWS rolls around.

Rigatelli's: Recommended by Prof. Robert Wagman for their Italian cuisine. If the food passes muster with Prof. Wagman, who was born and raised in Tuscany, you know it must be authentic. Located in the Oaks Mall. 6419 W. Newberry Road: 352-331-7226.

Macaroni Grill: Most of you have probably been to one of these. It is scheduled to open in time for the start of classes in fall 2005. Also located in the Oaks Mall.

The Bakery Mill & Deli: A great family-owned bakery located not far from the HIW. Fantastic breakfasts and tasty sandwiches; the muffins have traditionally been a good bet. 1143 NW 76th Blvd: 352-331-3354.

Maui Teriyaki: Great for some quick stir-fry. Cash only, though. Right across the street from the HIW. 600 NW 75th Street: 352-331-3393.

Five Star Pizza: Consistently some of the best pizza in town. Located across Tower Road from the HIW, they also deliver in record time. Much less expensive than Papa John's, but with fewer specialty pizzas. The garlic rolls are fantastic, however. 600 NW 75th Street: 352-333-7979.

El Noreno: A good gathering place for Mexican food and drinks close to the HIW. Good for students on a budget. 516 NW 75th Street: 352-332-5502.

La Fiesta: A family-run Mexican restaurant with fairly limited seating but a devoted group of fans. Fast service combined with big portions make this a great place for lunch. Located behind Red Lobster. 7038 NW 10th Place: 352-332-0878.

Bono's: A darn good place to get yourself some ol' fashioned Southern BBQ. Y'all ain't gonna be hungry when you leave this here place. Just up the road a piece from the HIW right there on Newberry Road. 6760 W. Newberry Road: 352-331-3112.

McAllister's Deli: A favorite of the locals as well as the college students, McAllister's boasts the best sweet tea in town (though some would claim Publix's is equal if not better). From loaded potatoes to sandwiches and salads, you're sure to find something tasty and to your liking here. 618 NW 60th Street: 352-331-8900.

The Swamp: The flagship restaurant of Gainesville, and the place where some of *The Devil's Advocate* with Keanu Reeves and Al Pacino was filmed (check out the beginning bar scene). Located near Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, UF's 93,000 seat football venue, The Swamp specializes in burgers and sandwiches. Lots of outdoor seating both on the lawn and on the balconies, The Swamp is a great place to sit and people-watch. Can get VERY crowded, however, as it is a favorite haunt of the Greek (i.e. fraternity/sorority) crowd. 1642 W. University Ave.: 352-377-9267.

Gator's Dockside: The premier sports bar in town. Be sure to order the fried gator appetizer; if you're in Gator Country, might as well try the eponymous animal. Trust us, it's good stuff! 3842 Newberry Road: 352-338-4445.

Stonewood Tavern & Grill: Great place to take a date or your mom for Mother's Day. Pricy entrees, but you should find it worth the money. Decent wine selection and good beers on tap. Business casual dress expected. 3812 Newberry Road: 352-379-5982. You can then walk next door and get some ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery.

Arkadia: Greek cuisine. Pretty popular, especially since it sort of doubles as a bar/nightclub after dark. 3545 SW 34th Street: 352-372-9880.

Las Margaritas: A favorite of Prof. Gareth Schmeling, the founder of UF's Department of Classics, Las Margaritas provides great portions at a good price. The margaritas, as you might imagine, are quite good; 32-oz beers don't hurt either. You can also eat outside on their patio. 4401 NW 25th Place: 352-374-6699.

Carraba's: You may or may not know this restaurant chain. If you do, you know that this is a good Italian place. Not the cheapest Italian you'll ever see (this ain't the Olive Garden), but not too bad. This place is always crowded, so be sure to call ahead. 3021 SW 34th Street: 352-692-0083.

Dragonfly: Located downtown, this restaurant has the best sushi in town. It is fairly expensive, but the food is worth it. 201 SE 2nd Ave.: 352-371-3359.

There are also lots of chain restaurants in the area, including Taco Bell, Whataburger, KFC, Domino's, Papa John's, Krystal's, Subway, Red Lobster, Wendy's, McDonald's, Burger King, etc. Most places in town deliver, or allow delivery through GatorFood.com. This is a great service for food from restaurants not in close proximity to the HIW. The list above is not in any way comprehensive. Gainesville has almost as many places to eat as students enrolled at the University of Florida.

Entertainment

If you have a car, and it might be a good idea to think about renting one, you will not lack for places to share 2-for-1 libations and other goodies. Downtown Gainesville draws about 10,000 people a night on the weekends, and directly across from campus is the "student ghetto," which is fronted by a number of local favorites (try the Salty Dog or Gator City). Gainesville does have two large theater complexes; no mini-golf, though. But there are bars, bars, and more bars. Did we mention the bars? Try Dirty Nelly's Irish Pub (208 W. University Ave.), Jewell's (108 S. Main Street), and Fat Tuesday (116 SE 1st Street). Not into the bar scene? How about clubs? Downtown boasts lots of places to dance, all within four blocks of each other (Sky, The Library, Rue Bar, Graffiti Beach). There is even a country-western bar in a building painted like a cow (8 Seconds, 201 W. University Ave.). How about a hookah bar? Gainesville has one (Farah's, 1120 W. University Ave). Two pool halls downtown will also help take the edge off - Jewell's and Silver Q (225 W. University Ave.).

Cultural and/or Nature Excursions

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park: Boat, camp, hike, bird-watch, fish, and swim at this 21,000-acre wildlife sanctuary. Alligator, wild horses, and wild bison are to be found here in abundance; there is an observation tower and a museum/visitor's center. Located 10 miles south of Gainesville on U.S. 441. 352-466-3397.

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park: This huge sinkhole was formed with an underground cavern roof collapsed, creating a bowl-shaped cavity 120 feet deep. Sinkholes are cool! 4732 Millhopper Road: 352-955-2008.

The Harn Museum of Art: 26,000 sq. feet of museum, with large permanent collections of American, pre-Columbian, African, and contemporary art. Located at the

corner of SW 34th Street and Hull Road on the UF campus. 352-392-9826, or <http://www.harmuseum.org>.

Florida Museum of Natural History: Located at the corner of SW 34th Street and Hull Road on the UF campus, this is the official state museum of natural history. Check it out online at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu>. Also attached to this museum you will find the The Lepidoptera Research Center and Butterfly Pavillion. Many thousands of butterflies from all over the world are housed in a man-made outdoor rainforest enclosure. This has proven to be a big draw among tourists and locals alike. It is highly recommended that you check this out if you a) have time, and b) like butterflies or nature.

Lake Alice: Located in the middle of UF's campus, Lake Alice is home to over 300 alligators, some reaching ten feet in length. The Baughman Center provides a great place to relax and take in the view. If you've never seen an alligator up close, this is the place to come and look.

The Bat House: Come see 40,000 bats all leave their house at the same time! This is way cooler than it sounds. The Bat House is home to the largest population of free-tailed fruit bats in the United States, and at dusk they all come out in a torrent of wings and fur. No, the bats don't eat people, and this is completely safe to watch. This draws a decent crowd every evening, but be sure to bring bug spray. And never, ever touch the bats. Located directly across from the alligator observation bridge on Lake Alice.

Transportation

You can use Gainesville's Regional Transit System for a buck per trip to get around to most of the city. There are also numerous cab companies. Again, you may wish to consider renting a car or road-tripping from your university in order to have ready transport to the various venues of interest.

Websites of Interest

Visitor Information: <http://www.visitgainesville.net>

Gainesville Regional Transit System: <http://www.go-rts.com>

Gainesville Regional Airport: <http://www.flygainesville.com>

The University of Florida's Homepage: <http://www.ufl.edu>

University of Florida Classics Department: <http://www.classics.ufl.edu>

University of Florida Campus Map: <http://campusmap.ufl.edu>