

Challenging Racism at The University of Florida

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEGACY OF EXCLUSION & INCLUSION

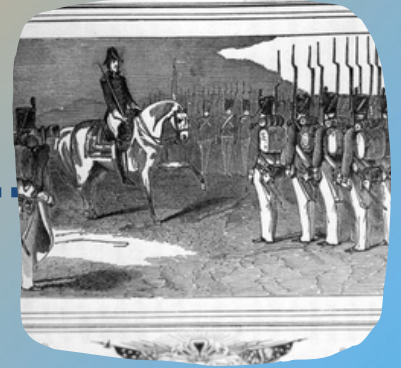


1739

Enslaved African Americans in British North America, struck out for their freedom and sought sanctuary from slavery with Spanish authorities in St. Augustine as well as Native American nations further in the interior of La Florida. In the decades after the American Revolution, African Americans escaped from slavery to create maroon communities along the Apalachicola River and formed strong alliances with Native Americans.

Leaders of the new American Republic threatened slavery's growth in the Gulf South. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams dispatched General Andrew Jackson to Florida in 1817 launching the First Seminole War.

1817

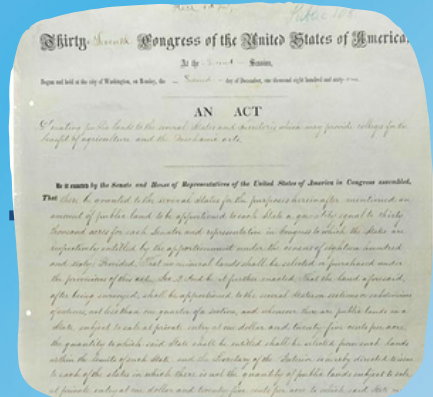


1835
1842

Second Seminole War. The largest slave revolt in American history as Indigenous people & insurgent African Americans sought to check the US slave empire's advance into Florida.

The forced removal of Seminole people after the Second Seminole War and the passage of the Armed Occupation Act (AOA) created space and resources for the establishment of the East Florida Seminary in Ocala, in 1853. Several settler colonists and grantees of the AOA later became Board Members of the East Florida Seminary, and leases of former Seminole land generated the necessary funds to start the institution.

1862

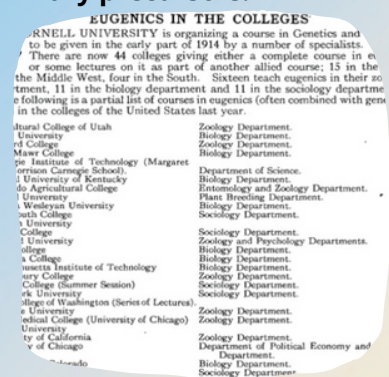


1905

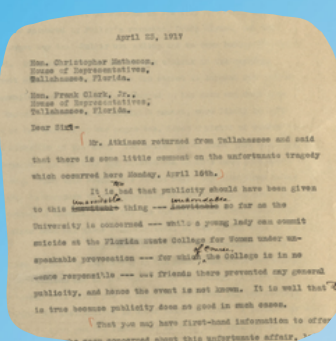
Morrill Land-Grant College Act. The sale of land both legally ceded by and illegally seized from Native Americans is used to fund higher education. Though this democratized education for some Americans, it furthered settler colonial expansion. The sale of 90,000 acres from 120 tribes across 9 states funded the creation of The Florida Agricultural College in Lakeland in 1884, one of UF's primary precursors.

The Buckman Act reorganized public higher education in the state. The University of Florida inherited and helped to maintain systemic racial inequality in education, politics, and the economy that was designed to keep Black Floridians as second-class citizens. This inequality was enforced by a degree of anti-Black violence in northern Florida, particularly Alachua County, that stood out even by the gruesome standards of the rest of the South, giving Florida the highest per-capita lynching rate in the nation.

1910-
1930



UF offers a variety of courses that teach eugenics and other racist pseudoscience. Eugenics theories informed scholarly approaches to behavioral psychology, criminology, biology, sociology, and a host of other academic fields in universities across the country. In turn, eugenics validated xenophobia and anti-immigrant policies. This was revealed in episodes of anti-Asian racism as well as the failure of the United States to offer safe haven to tens of thousands of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s.



UF student JK Fuller shoots and kills Anthony Goins, the child of an African American "washwoman" working in the dormitories. Black staff organized a strike in protest. Florida governor Sidney Catts intervened to protect Fuller and prevent his prosecution.

1917

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THE STATE OF FLORIDA RULES THAT WHITE WOMEN CAN ATTEND UF

1924

World War I veteran Father John Conole, pastor of Crane Hall and director of the student drama club, the Masqueraders, was abducted, assaulted, and castrated by the local KKK for allegedly promoting Catholicism at UF. Several Leading Gainesville citizens were implicated in the crime-never charged- and UF stayed silent about the attack.

Kappa Alpha fraternity gets established at UF, paid homage to Southern antebellum life and the confederacy. Its annual Plantation Ball, in which members dressed as confederate officers and their dates as Southern "Belles, was a significant social event on campus. Kappa Alpha also Claimed responsibility for the introduction of " Dixie,

1930S



The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (known as the G.I. Bill of Rights¹⁰) enabled a new cohort of students and faculty outside of the WASP elite to matriculate to UF in the wake of World War II. Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement as well as student activism and the Internationalization of university faculty, UF began developing a reputation for scholarship in the intersecting fields of gender, race, Latin American as well as African American Studies. Key faculty in these areas include WWII veteran David Chalmers, a historian who arrived at UF in 1955. Dr. Chalmers became one of the leading experts on the Civil Rights Movement as well as the Ku Klux Klan.

1944



University of Florida denied admission to Virgil Hawkins and five other Black students based on race.

1949



UF begins to offer courses relevant to American Indian and Indigenous Studies.

1950



Brown vs. Board of Education. U.S. Supreme Court orders public schools desegregated.

1954

George H. Starke is the first Black person to attend UF. He entered the College of Law.



1958

Madelyn Lockhart arrived at UF in 1959 and taught economics. She quickly joined local Black women's civil rights struggles and became the first female academic dean in the history of UF. In the GNV Community she started twenty daycare centers in this county in one six month period, when there was only one and was segregated from the Black community.

Daphne Duval Williams is the first Black woman to attend UF. She entered the College of Education.

1959

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1962

W. George Allen is the first Black person to graduate from UF College of Law.

1963

Seven Black undergraduate students enter UF

Dr. David Chalmers leads a student protest outside of College Inn restaurant, calling for desegregation.

1965

Stephan Mickle (Who becomes Federal Judge Mickle) is the first Black undergraduate to graduate from UF.



1967

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program was founded by Dr. Samuel Proctor. SPOHP has worked Assiduously with colleagues and students from African American Studies, Women's Studies, Anthropology, Latin American Studies, African Studies, Journalism, Performance and many other fields to conduct and to support ethnographic fieldwork throughout the world.

1969

Roy Mitchell (now Dr. Roy I, Mitchell) becomes the first Black administrator at UF when he is hired as the Director of Minority Affairs.

Afro-American Studies Program is established. Dr.Selden Henry is the Advisor/Head.

Only 341 Black students at UF out of 22,253. Florida Governor Claude Kirk threatened to suspend local education officials if they followed integration.

1970

Student activism in support of Native American rights and representation on campus blossomed in the 1970s inspired by the national Red Power and American Indian Movements. As the Native American Working Group notes, "In large measure, UF student activism has steered the institution towards more equitable futures.

Dr. Ronald C. Foreman begins as the first director of what was then labeled as Afro American Studies. He, Dr. Carleton G. Davis (Food Resource Economics), and Dr. Elwyn Adams (Music) are the first three tenure-track Black faculty members at UF.

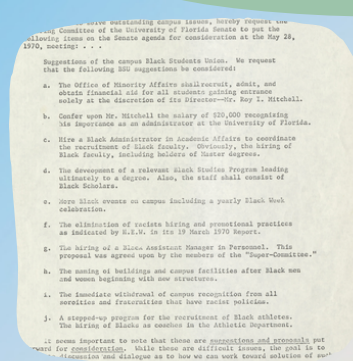


1971

After unsuccessful attempts to address concerns about the campus climate at UF, students hold a sit-in at Tigert Hall and present a list of 10 demands to the administration. This date was known as "Black Thursday." Approximately 67 students were arrested, nearly 100 Black students withdrew in protests.

BSU's members barged into President O'Connell's meeting with another student and presented him with six significant demands.

In April, Roy Mitchell submits his letter of resignation (effective June 1) as head of Minority affairs in the aftermath of Black Thursday. The resignation is accepted immediately.



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1972

The Institute of Black Culture opens, one of the first of its type at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI).

1974

A survey of library holdings states that UF libraries' African American Collection consisted of then-current "monographs and scholarly publications on Black music, theater, and literatures" with an emphasis on Black popular culture specifically—reflections on the Harlem Renaissance.

Pamela Bingham becomes the first Black woman elected as UF Student Government President.

1986

First Encounters exhibit focused on the Caribbean and Southeastern explorations of Christopher Columbus and other Europeans from 1492-1570. 249 Native American and non-Native student protestors took issue with the lack of Native engagement and consultation in the development of the exhibit.

1989



1991

The Black Awareness Movement. Students take over the Student Government offices because of complaints about how Black History Month was funded. An agreement was made to better fund Black History Month.

First Student Organization, Native American Inter-Tribal Organization Network (NATION).

1994

The First "Umoja Graduation Celebration" for Black student at UF is held.



1996

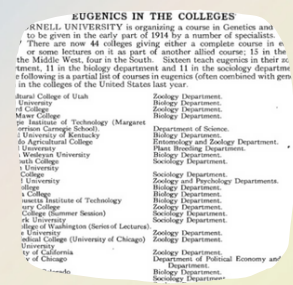
Asian group ridiculed by racial slurs after Asian Kaleidoscope Month event.

1998

The Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations (CSRRR) was officially established as a university-wide center.

History Department begins to offer a course specifically on American Indians (AMH44111) "Imperialism and Amerindians 1600-1840".

2000



Virgil D. Hawkins is awarded a UF law degree posthumously.

2001

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity hosts "Mekong Delta" party, inviting men to dress as U.S GI soldiers and women as Vietnamese prostitutes.

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2006

The African American Studies eProgram begins offering a minor.

2008

American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) has been the primary impetus of academic programming and public outreach pertaining to Native American history, culture, and politics.

2009

Office of the Provost has provided steady funding for SPOHP's African American History Project Collection. This funding has allowed SPOHP to hire Graduate students as well as undergraduate students to do interviews, transcribe, and produce podcast, mini-documentaries, and public programs on African American History.

UF Budget cuts threatened to decrease language courses, including Korean and Vietnamese.

2013

The African American Studies Bachelor of Arts degree is approved.

Ghanian UF doctoral student Kofi Adu-Brempong is nonfatally shot in the head by Officer Keith Smith of UPD's Critical Incident Response Team (CRIT). Adu-Brempong was experiencing a mental health crisis. This event sparked student protests, resulting in the firing of the commanding officer at the scene, and additional funding for the Counseling and Wellness Center

2014

With the Departure of Dr. Julianna Barr, "American Indian History" courses ceased to be offered.

The first three students majoring in African American Studies Graduate

2017

Flyers passed around campus from a self-claimed Chinese restaurant seeking to purchase a dog.



Student Protests, #NoLaIBCita againsts demolition efforts of IBC and La Casita.

2018

White Supremacist Richard Spencer speaks at UF. Students protest him and the university for allowing him to come to campus. UF spends \$500,000 on security.

University of Southern California Race and Equity Center gives UF an 'F' score for racial representation.

Society for Advancement of Chicanos/ Hispanics and Native Americans-2018-Present.



SAMUEL PROCTOR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Liberal Arts *and* Sciences

BLACK
ASIAN
WOMEN

NATIVE AMERICAN
STUDENT LEADERSHIP
LATINX

FACULTY STAFF
UF RESPONSE
LATINX

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2019



The closing of IBC AND la casita, replaced by new buildings.

Native American Law Student Association 2015-2019.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Task Force make a survey, 81% of APIDA-identifying students identified a lack of UF support to the APID Affairs office.

2020

The creation of American Indian Science and Engineering Society.



President Kent Fuchs announced on June 18, 2020, that the University Athletic Association and the Gator Marching Band would discontinue use of the "Gator Bait" cheer, officially ending the chant.

President Kent Fuchs appointed a task force in October 2020 to explore the renaming of buildings on UF campus. Campus buildings, such as the J. Wayne Reitz Union and the Stephen O'Connell Center, are memorialized after Reitz and O'Connell, who supported segregation and even supported efforts to target gay people in the 1950s and '60s.

2021

UF/IFAS terminated all contracts with state and county correctional facilities in September 2020, ending use of inmate labor programs at university agricultural research sites throughout the state.

2021, Student Opinion, UF not addressing Asian Hate.

2021, Presidential Statement Regarding Anti-Asian Violence.

2022

