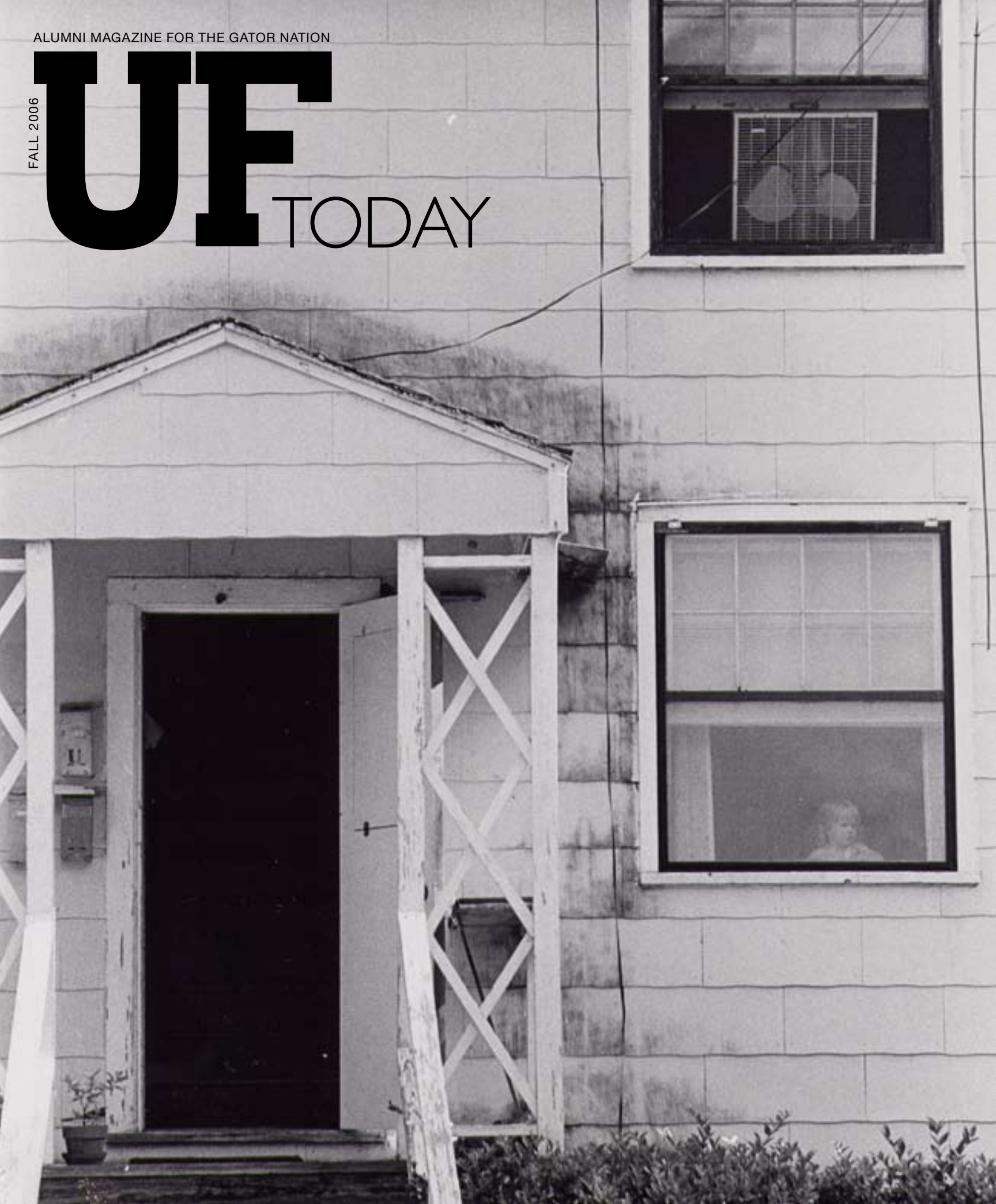


ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR THE GATOR NATION

FALL 2006

UF TODAY



STORIES

IN EVERY ISSUE

Remembering the Flavets

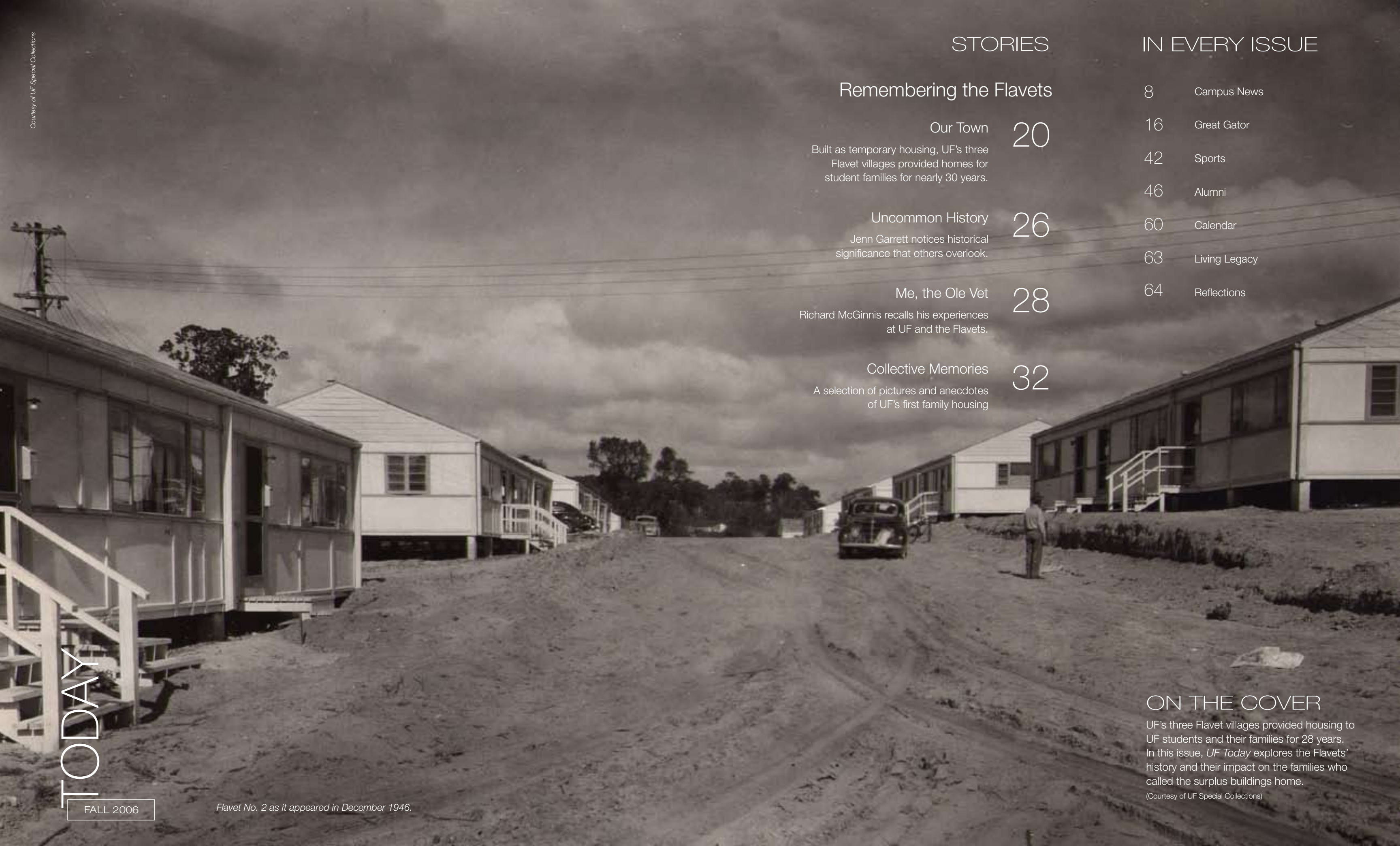
Our Town **20**
Built as temporary housing, UF's three Flavet villages provided homes for student families for nearly 30 years.

Uncommon History **26**
Jenn Garrett notices historical significance that others overlook.

Me, the Ole Vet **28**
Richard McGinnis recalls his experiences at UF and the Flavets.

Collective Memories **32**
A selection of pictures and anecdotes of UF's first family housing

- 8 Campus News
- 16 Great Gator
- 42 Sports
- 46 Alumni
- 60 Calendar
- 63 Living Legacy
- 64 Reflections



ON THE COVER

UF's three Flavet villages provided housing to UF students and their families for 28 years. In this issue, *UF Today* explores the Flavets' history and their impact on the families who called the surplus buildings home.

(Courtesy of UF Special Collections)

Uncommon History

Jenn Garrett notices historical significance that others overlook.

You never know where you're going to find a bomb shelter. Or even a historic billboard.

Florida teems with architectural history, and Jenn Garrett (MID '05) has spent the past year uncovering the state's hidden gems. As an architectural historian for Southeastern Archaeological Research in Jonesville, Garrett investigates her share of historic homes and mansions, but she also has unraveled the mysteries of a caboose, a billboard for DeLeon Springs and a historic irrigation system.

"You just never know what you're going to find out there," Garrett says. "I just come across these little mysteries that maybe everyone wouldn't find exciting, but I love it."

Last year, Garrett became one of the first three UF students to earn a master's degree with a specialization in historic preservation from the College of Design, Construction and Planning.

But when she came to UF in 2002, Garrett wasn't so sure what she wanted to do other than learn more about interior design.

A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., Garrett began her schooling at the University of Georgia. A sculptor and artist, she majored in fine arts and sculpture so she could take a few of the art classes she wanted.

"I thought, 'Well, I'll do this temporarily, but I loved it,'" she says.

After graduating, Garrett moved to Atlanta where she found work as a wrought-iron sculptor. When she and her husband, Timothy, who recently earned his doctorate in chemistry from UF, moved to Gainesville, she worked in a local design store but quickly decided she wanted to learn more about interior design.

Garrett met with Susan Tate (MAARC '75), a UF professor of interior design, before she enrolled. Tate, who specializes in the study of historic interiors, told her, "It sounds like you're interested in historic preservation."

"It was something she had never considered before," Tate remembers. "She was interested in it. She just didn't realize it yet."

Garrett earned a spot as a teaching assistant for one of Tate's courses and began helping her new mentor with an ambitious grant proposal Tate was submitting to the Getty Foundation, which funds projects to preserve history on college campuses. The proposal was accepted.

"I knew that was where I was supposed to be," Garrett says. "I knew [historic preservation is] where I could make the most of the knowledge I had to really do something good for communities."

Garrett began conducting her own research on the Flavel housing erected on campus after World War II to house veterans and their families who flocked to the university to take advantage of the G.I. Bill's education benefits. UF began installing the Flavets on campus in 1946, after then-president John Tigert bought the first of the prefabricated buildings from a Panama City shipyard for \$1 each.

"They certainly weren't glamorous, but they were good enough," says Garrett, who researched the buildings last year and interviewed 10 families who lived there. "[The families] were proud that the University of Florida had made a place for them and was giving their husbands an opportunity, paying back their service."

Garrett's research on post-World War II structures impressed the Getty Foundation because many institutions often ignore these buildings, Tate says.

Her ability to spot something significant just under the surface hasn't gone unnoticed at Southeastern Archaeological Research either.

"She is very skilled at finding non-typical architecture and historical resources," says James Pochurek (BA '95), vice president of the company. "Her interest is sincere and that translates to different types of projects."

Garrett, one of six historians at the cultural resource management firm, knows she's found what she's meant to do.

"We're building evidence about the history of the communities," she says. "It's exciting." —