Fisher School of Accounting alumnus Keith Robinson graduated from UF in 2006 with his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Accounting. After graduation, instead of the traditional public accounting career path, he decided to participate in the Teach for America program. Keith teaches a seventh grade math class at I.S. 195 Roberto Clemente in the Harlem neighborhood in New York City where he applied a University of Florida theme in his classroom and began to use the Gator Nation as an inspirational means for his students. Upon the completion of his two-year obligation, he chose to stay at the Harlem middle school and continue teaching.

Keith decided to take the effort to the next level by actually bringing students to Gainesville. Using an innovative internet strategy involving a YouTube video, Keith raised over $20,000 to pay for the trip. Students qualified for the trip by achieving a minimum average in their classes, having an attendance rate of at least 90 percent and getting the approval of all their other teachers.

In March, twenty of Keith’s students traveled with him to Gainesville. Their Gator Nation adventure was a combination of entertaining and academic activities. The students visited various buildings on campus including Gerson Hall, where they were able to tour the building and classrooms where their teacher had attended. While in Gerson Hall, they received words of encouragement and heard about their teacher when he was a student at UF from FSOA Director Gary McGill.

The students also got the chance to watch the Gators during one of their spring football practices. All of these efforts are part of Robinson’s greater mission of increasing the area’s struggling high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates. After their visit to Gainesville, many of the students expressed a greater interest in attending colleges like the University of Florida following graduation. Hopefully more of Robinson’s students will have the chance to participate in these college tours in the future.