

# GIFT OF THE WEEK

## *Real-Estate Booster*

**WHO GAVE IT:** Nathan Collier, founder and owner of Collier Cos., a real-estate management, renovation and development concern in Gainesville, Fla.

**HOW MUCH:** \$1 million

**WHO GOT IT:** The Warrington College of Business Administration at the University of Florida, Gainesville

**BY REQUEST:** The money will create an endowment for the university's Master of Science in Real Estate program.

**HOW IT HAPPENED:** Mr. Collier, now 54, grew up in Gainesville. His father taught civil engineering at the university and served 18 years on the city council, in-



*Nathan Collier*

stillling in the young Mr. Collier a sense of civic virtue, he says. Mr. Collier's great-uncle was Peter Collier, who founded Collier's Weekly magazine, published from 1888 to 1957, and his grandfather Robert Collier was a self-help author who in the 1920s published "The Secret of the

Ages," which is referred to in the current bestselling self-help book "The Secret."

Mr. Collier attended UF at Gainesville, majoring in finance, and earned three degrees there. His interest in real estate began in his youth, when he helped run a property his father owned. In college, Mr. Collier formed a business to manage other people's property, and eventually formed his current company. He's a life member of the university's foundation board and board member of its Center for Real Estate Studies. "Florida is real estate," he says. He believes the university will one day have one of the country's top real-estate programs, "but I wanted us to get there faster."

—Robert J. Hughes