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# UCF Report

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A publication for faculty and staff

## Peace forum ushers in millennium

The 5,000-seat UCF Arena is expected to be filled for the Dec. 7 event featuring two Nobel Peace Prize winners

Peace, not war, will be on the minds of central Floridians on Tuesday, Dec. 7, the anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, if the University of Central Florida has its way.

On the 58th anniversary of the bombing, UCF will celebrate the possibilities of peace and reconciliation in the world at a free, public lecture by Nobel Peace Prize winners Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and former president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias. The facilitator for a question-and-answer segment of the forum is Gina London, weekend anchor for CNN Headline News.

All 5,000 seats in the UCF Arena are expected to be filled for A Day of Peace in Central Florida: A Forum on Peace and Reconciliation in the World.

The 9-11 a.m. forum will be shown via closed circuit in a second campus location for an expected overflow crowd.

"The response from the community has been overwhelming," says Tom Bohn, director for Community Relations. "Interest has crossed all religious boundaries, all social boundaries and attracted the business community, too. All kinds of people are planning to attend or be involved in some manner."

Please see PEACE, page 4

### Solitary man



Jacque Brund

Steve Krygier was alone with his thoughts and books inside the Brevard campus Library at Brevard Community College, recently. He was studying for a computer software class.

## \$10 million given to university last year

Donations to the UCF Foundation were the most ever, bringing total to \$62 million

The UCF Foundation reported a banner year for 1999, with its investment fund climbing \$9 million to just under \$62 million.

Robert Holmes, UCF Foundation president, credited an increase in broad-based giving and the influence of community leaders for the fund's growth.

Please see GIVING, page 2

## Computer school, Engineering merge

The goal is to better serve the community by forming the College of Engineering and Computer Science

It's signed, sealed and delivered. The College of Engineering welcomed the School of Computer Science into its fold on Nov. 15, creating the College of Engineering and Computer Science. A School of Electrical Engineer-

ing and Computer Science will be established within the college and will consist of three divisions: Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering.

"President [John] Hitt and I feel that this reorganization will create a unique opportunity for the University of Central Florida to exercise its leadership and partnership capabilities in the areas of electrical engineering, computer engineering and computer science," says Provost Gary Whitehouse.

"A number of local industry leaders are supportive of this concept and are very enthusiastic

about the potential of this partnership. We expect that this new approach will enhance already productive relationships, both internal and external to the campus."

Until last month, the School of Computer Science had been part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Marty Wanielista, dean for the Engineering and Computer Science College, says the blending of engineering and computer science "is more com-

Please see COLLEGE, page 2

# Dec.

Next issue of The UCF Report is Dec. 17 • Deadline is noon, Dec. 8

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Jacque Brund

### Showing off for the boss

Florida Chancellor Adam Herbert (left) toured UCF's Advanced Materials Processing and Analysis Center during his visit to the university and Orlando, late last month.

## Faculty, staff show generosity

UCF smashed its goal of \$113,000, raising \$148,000 for the 1999 charitable campaign

UCF administrators were beaming as the final numbers were compiled for the State Employees' Charitable Campaign.

The university collected \$148,000 for the campaign, easily smashing its \$113,000 goal. The campaign benefits United Way and other organizations

throughout the world.

"Our charitable contributions reflect well on UCF's place in the community. Even after the campaign ended on Oct. 29, we still had additional donations coming in," says UCF's campaign coordinator Bill Merck, vice president for Administration and Finance.

The number of employees donating to the campaign has increased over the last several years, and the percentage of giving has remained just above 51 percent, he says. "I believe we have the potential in a year or two

to reach 60 percent participation."

The College of Business Administration bested the other colleges with 77 percent participation this year. The College of Health and Public Affairs followed with almost 69 percent. Of the larger units, Administration and Finance led the way with a 70 percent participation rate.

Merck extends a general thanks to all who worked to make the campaign successful and who donated. "Your efforts are greatly appreciated," he says.

— Joanne Griggs

GIVING, continued from page 1

"There is a growing number of people who want to invest in UCF and who are stepping up to help our fund-raising efforts," he says, noting that 1,800 more donations were made to UCF this year than in 1998 and that \$2.2 million was raised by 11,791 donors to the university's Annual Fund.

Efforts to raise money included the Phonathon and letters from alumni to former classmates. Leadership was provided by the foundation's Board of Trustees and the advisory boards from each college.

"The strength of our program is that we just have a great network," Holmes says.

Although giving for 1998-1999, which ended June 30, duplicated the

nearly \$10 million raised the year before, the numbers are deceptive. In 1997-1998, an in-kind gift of \$2.6 million for a NASA antenna pushed the total up. "It's highly unusual to receive an in-kind gift of such value," Holmes says. "Without that gift, the total giving would have been \$7.3 million last year."

UCF's investments are earning \$2.5 million annually and could grow to \$2.7 million soon, he says. Last year, UCF secured a number of pledges that will be fulfilled over the next few years. UCF's largest single gift was \$1.5 million from Al and Nancy Burnett for the Honors College, which brought in matching funds from the state. Another \$480,000 gift was for

undergraduate and graduate education for engineering and optics as part of a national consortium.

Holmes says the contributions are necessary because the university's needs are increasing.

"Where do these monies go? They're funneled to students for scholarships, merit and needs-based, LEADs and National Merit scholarships, eminent scholar chairs, into the classrooms and to faculty, deans and athletics. These funds are used to deliver educational services not possible with only state monies," he says.

"We're helping more students and more faculty, but we need to because the university is growing so fast."

— Joanne Griggs

COLLEGE, continued from page 1

mon now [at universities] than it was 10 years ago."

"We're making a unit which is more responsive to industry needs and is more cost-effective, by minimizing overlap. We can be quicker in responding to national and local needs," he says. "Many computer science programs are moving into engineering. There is a natural overlap. Certainly, you want to take advantage of that. And the faculty opportunities are significantly increased. You get greater synergy, where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

Erol Gelenbe, director for the former School of Computer Science, will direct the new school and serve as associate dean for Engineering and Computer Science.

"This is a very exciting opportunity and a big challenge for UCF," he says. "The objective is to unify our efforts in the broad area of information technology through a coalition of computer science, computer engineering and electrical engineering. This is a strong step ahead that will help us build a world-class unit, support our partnership efforts and further our

thrust toward national and international prominence."

Much of the impact of the merger will be felt in central Florida, Whitehouse says.

"We feel [the change] will provide ... significant opportunities to interface with the rapidly developing expertise within the central Florida community," he says. "I believe that this move is consistent with the metropolitan mission of the University of Central Florida ... and will significantly strengthen UCF's leadership."

— Susan Loden

# All we are saying, is give peace a chance

I'm looking forward to Tuesday, Dec. 7. That's when Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will be on campus to speak about, of all things, peace.

What a wonderful gift that is from our university to the central Florida community. As the 20th century slips away, we're offering a reason to dream the impossible dream: the dream that world peace can be achieved in the next century.

The possibility that the world's governments can work together for the common good of humankind. The previously unthinkable prospect that our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren will never have to fight another war.

It's interesting that the Tutu and Arias event, tagged "A Day of Peace in Central Florida: A Forum on Peace and Reconciliation in the World," falls on the 58th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, one of the ugliest days in American history. That quirk in scheduling gives us an opportunity to stand up and say, "Enough. Enough war. Enough violence. Enough cruelty."

I'm not so naive to think one event featuring a couple of Nobel Peace Prize winners is going to change the world overnight. But I'm optimistic enough to believe it's a start. With enough forums about peace and enough people convinced that the world would be a better place without war and violence, why can't we achieve that?

There's the old saying about tossing a tiny pebble into a pond, and ripple after ripple after ripple flowing from its splash. UCF's peace forum can be that pebble. The ripples that it creates can be you and me and everyone else who

has enough faith in the human race to believe that it's long past time that we, as the great John Lennon once sang, "give peace a chance."

The free forum will be in the UCF Arena at 9-11 a.m. Reports are that community organizations are thrilled with the opportunity to attend. Church and school groups are quickly reserving seats. That's terrific. After all, the beauty of a university is that it offers a way to a better life — usually through education, but, this time, through something even better: the gift of hope.

— David Fimmerty

# Short Takes

## UCF collecting toys for needy children

The Student Alumni Association and UCF Police Department are collecting for the Holiday Toy Drive. Unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Police Department, Alumni Relations Office in ADM 340, and in the Student Union near the information desk until Wednesday, Dec. 8. Toys will be forwarded to the XL106.7 Baby DJ Fund for distribution to needy families. For information, call 823-3453 or 823-6185.

## Leadership awards honor faculty, staff

Faculty, staff and students will be recognized for contributions to UCF and the community during UCF's fifth annual Leadership Week celebration, Feb. 28-March 2. Faculty Leadership Award winners will be recognized from each college. A&P and USPS Award winners will be recognized from each college and each division. Nomination forms are in each college dean's office or division vice president's office and in the LEAD Scholars Office. Deadlines for nominations are Jan. 14 for A&P and USPS awards and Jan. 28 for faculty awards. For information, call Shannon Bergman at 823-2223.

## Time to update old All-Campus Cards

All-Campus Cards issued during the initial carding in November 1998 have expired. The date the card was issued is printed on the front of the card. Cards issued that month must be updated at the UCF Card Office, across from the Bookstore. The process will take about 10 seconds. Several years will be added to cards before they expire again. Once a card expires, its holder will not have access to money stored on it. The card will not be useable in machines, stores or restaurants on campus. For information, call 823-3072 or e-mail Dave Andrews at dandrews@mail.ucf.edu.

## Upcoming holiday

Hit the mall, the Christmas holiday is approaching. Since Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, Dec. 24 is a universitywide holiday.

## This issue

This issue of *The UCF Report* is for the weeks of Dec. 3-9 and Dec. 10-16. It is the 10th issue of fiscal year 1999-00. *The UCF Report* is published 23 times a year (every other week in the fall and spring, and every third week in the summer).

## The UCF Report

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# Talented 20 plan's impact on UCF to be determined

Chancellor Adam Herbert and others have embraced the proposal, but others fear it might hurt minority groups

Gov. Jeb Bush's plan to base college admission to Florida's public universities on high school class standing rather than race, with the top 20 percent from each public high school guaranteed college admission, has gotten high marks from some state officials and educators.

Chancellor Adam Herbert, for instance, calls the Talented 20 plan "historic."

"The Board of Regents, our presidents and I share the governor's strong commitment and conviction that we must not just maintain, but continue to enhance diversity within the SUS. It is my strong belief that the governor's plan provides a policy framework which will enable our universities to

fulfill this commitment," he says.

However, the plan worries some proponents of Affirmative Action who fear the governor's Talented 20 proposal will harm minorities.

Janet Park Balanoff, UCF's director for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, isn't sure yet how the plan might change the makeup of UCF's campus population.

"I am looking forward to [studying] the analysis that has been asked of each university," she says. "I understand that the chancellor has a strong belief that this will diversify all of the campuses."

Balanoff adds that she will probably be involved in this analysis. However, she expects that the bulk of the study will involve the university's Admissions Office, which has access to data on grades, race and other student characteristics — which, in the past, have served as factors in deciding admission under equal opportunity and affirmative action rules.

— Susan Loden



## Fair maiden

Jeanette Thompson of Pi Alpha Gamma helped out at her sorority's Wee-Bee Bazaar late last month by selling baked goods. Thompson dressed in a costume appropriate for the bazaar, which was located near Howard Phillips Hall.

Jacque Brund

# Move brings research staff closer

The Division of Research is a step closer to being in one location with the temporary move of the office's Proposal Processing and Submissions' staff from the CREOL Building to the Computer Science Building.

Betsy Gray, interim director for Sponsored Research, expects a two-month stay in the Computer Science Building for that segment of her department.

"We want them all with us, but [we] can't have that right now. The plan for 2000 is for all elements

of the [Division] of Research — which are now located in the Administration Building, the Computer Science Building and the Research Pavilion — to be housed in one location. We are searching for a space large enough to accommodate the entire research office staff," she says.

"We appreciate CREOL hosting us for a while and now appreciate Computer Science doing so ... We are looking forward to being together in one location soon."

— Susan Loden

# UCF will have home of own in Clermont

Ground breaking is planned for a \$10 million, 60,000-square-foot joint-use facility on the Lake-Sumter campus

UCF's first joint-use facility outside of Brevard and Volusia counties is just a turn of the shovel away on the new Clermont campus of Lake-Sumter Community College.

A dual ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11, to dedicate the first completed phase of UCF's newest community college branch location and to break ground for a 60,000-square-foot, \$10 million building that the university and college will share.

About half of the second phase will be devoted to UCF faculty, staff and students, while additional portions of the building will be used jointly, with some space reserved for Lake-Sumter Community College. The building is expected to be in service in April 2001.

"This building will be placed as the showpiece of campus," says Jack Rollins, director for UCF's Daytona Beach campus, who is involved in joint-use expansion. "It will be the most prominent building when you drive onto the main campus. It will be three stories ... on top of a hill, which is one of the highest points in all of Florida. You will be able to see to downtown Orlando from the top of the building."

Rollins says it hasn't been determined what courses and programs the University of Central

Florida will offer at the branch campus.

"I have never seen such support for a facility from the community," he says. "It should be highly successful. They are excited about our presence, and more enthusiastic than I have ever seen."

UCF Vice Provost Frank Juge says UCF's presence at Lake-Sumter Community College is a result of partnerships in west central Florida.

"We have facilities in Brevard and Volusia counties. This will be our first [physical] expansion into another county," Juge says.

"We are also working with Central Florida Community College in Ocala to build a joint-use facility there. That building will be smaller and [for] more general use. The program there is not as large as the Clermont program."

—Susan Loden

# Arias visit special for student

Hollman Esquivel was 16 when his father worked as a political adviser to Oscar Arias

If dreams come true, UCF's Forum on Peace and Reconciliation in the World on Tuesday, Dec. 7, will reunite Hollman Esquivel with his homeland's Nobel Peace Prize-winning former president, Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Just as when Esquivel, a UCF senior, was a boy and Arias would visit Esquivel's politically active father at the family's home, Arias will once

again be on Esquivel's turf — this time, the UCF campus. The difference is that now, at age 30, Esquivel has a greater appreciation of Arias as president and champion for world peace.

"I just want to shake his hand and see how he reacts. I don't expect him to remember me," Esquivel says. "[But] I'm sure he remembers my father."

Esquivel's father served Costa Rica as a diplomat in Chicago during Arias' presidency in 1986-1990. Earlier political ties with Arias were forged when Esquivel was 16 years old and his father, Hollman Esquivel Sr., was the equivalent of a congressman

in Costa Rica.

"They were trying to pass a law that would allow a president to be elected to a second term. My father and a couple of others opposed this. The law didn't pass," he explains.

"My father was one of the congressmen opposing that law, [which] gave Mr. Arias a chance to run for president. The rest is history."

Even as a teenager, the younger Esquivel was so impressed with Arias he worked on his presidential campaign.

In the days leading up to the campaign, Esquivel recalls, Arias visited his family's home a few times before deciding to become a candidate.

"I was fascinated by the man. He had written about four books. He wasn't such a big celebrity then; he hadn't won the Nobel Prize. Just the fact that I'm a book lover — I don't think I really understood who I was meeting at the time," Esquivel recalls.

"It's nice that years down the road we come to see each other here in Orlando. I wouldn't miss this [peace forum] for the world. It will be the biggest thrill of my life, knowing the history that we have kind of shared."

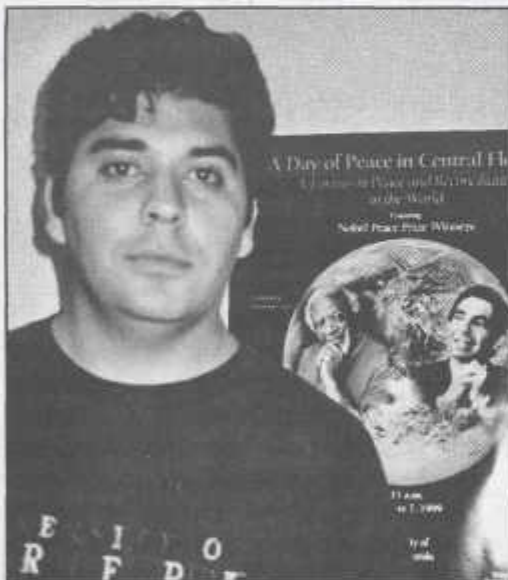
"When I was 16, I was really in the background. I was a witness of what was taking place. I really didn't have anything to talk about. The question that I would like to ask now is more on a personal level. I am very honored that he is going to be here at my school, UCF. I'd like to let him know how proud that makes me feel. I have been inviting people in my community to come to listen to him and to Archbishop [Desmond] Tutu."

Although Esquivel's major is molecular biology, he doesn't rule out a career in politics for himself, inspired by his father and Arias.

"I would love to be involved in politics in the future. I will see what life brings me and never rule out the possibility," he says.

"My father believed in Mr. Arias. That's why they put up such a great fight for him. His presidency was a great time for Costa Rica. The country flourished and got a lot of attention when he was in office and got the Nobel Prize. That tells the whole story."

—Susan Loden



Hollman Esquivel

Susan Loden

*"I am very honored that [Oscar Arias] is going to be here at my school, UCF. I'd like to let him know how proud that makes me feel. I have been inviting people in my community to come to listen to him and to Archbishop [Desmond] Tutu."*

Hollman Esquivel,  
UCF student

PEACE, continued from page 1

Concurrently, the Disney Institute will host a daylong symposium with young peacemakers from around the world and 200 local high school students, with Tutu joining them in the afternoon.

Orange County and the city of Orlando are expected to officially proclaim Dec. 7, 1999, "A Day of Peace in Central Florida." The Disney Institute and Global Connections for Central Florida, a grassroots organization promoting public understanding of how developments around the world touch lives here, worked with UCF in presenting the forum.

"One of the forum's purposes is to raise awareness among central Floridians about the barriers and incentives for peace at every level of social relationships," says President John Hitt, who originated the UCF forum as the first in a series of public lectures to usher in the millennium.

"Violence blocks progress toward achieving secure, fulfilling lives whether it takes the form of spouse or child abuse close to home or targets ethnic minorities in distant countries," he says. "As citizens of the world, we need to learn and apply

the techniques for resolving conflicts peacefully. No two individuals are better equipped to instruct us in that process than Archbishop Tutu and President Arias."

Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his efforts to bring a peaceful end to apartheid in South Africa. He later served as chair of the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Tutu retired as the Anglican archbishop of Cape Town in 1996 and is currently a visiting professor at Emory University's School of Theology in Atlanta.

Arias served as president of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for decades of work to end political violence in Central America. He now speaks and writes on



Tutu



Arias

*"As citizens of the world, we need to learn and apply the techniques for resolving conflicts peacefully. No two individuals are better equipped to instruct us in that process than Archbishop Tutu and President Arias."*

President John Hitt

behalf of practical investments of the post-Cold War "peace dividends."

—Dean McFall and Joanne Griggs

# Until retirement do they part

Frank Juge and Brenda Kashow have been working side-by-side at UCF longer than many marriages last

In an era when so many people bounce from job to job every few years, Frank Juge and Brenda Kashow have spent the past 20 years working side-by-side at UCF.

He's vice provost. She's his senior administrative assistant.

"It's just one of those things. You never know what the future holds," says Kashow, trying to explain how she and her boss somehow remained together so long.

Like most longtime relationships, Juge and Kashow have managed to stay together because of their mutual respect, similar values and shared sense of humor.

"Both of us are kind of boringly reliable. We show up at work and do our jobs," Juge says.

"We've seen a lot of changes and outlasted a number of provosts. We've both been under stress, but never take it out on each other."

Kashow still remembers her job interview with Juge all those years ago. At the time, he was an 11-year veteran at UCF and interim vice president for Sponsored Research and dean for Graduate Studies.

"I wanted to work close to home — I had kids in school," she recalls. "One year turned into the next."

And so on and so on, until two decades slipped away.

"Now, I tease him that I have tenure. He can't fire me," Kashow says.

Not that he'd want to. After so much time working together, the two have settled into comfortable familiarity. Kashow knows Juge isn't always a morning person. He knows she has a green thumb with African violets, which bloom at her desk side.

"We have a deal, she can't retire until I retire — she's a few months older," Juge says.

"It would be too hard to adjust to a new secretary or to a new boss," Kashow adds.

In 20 years, Juge and Kashow have pretty much figured each other out.

"We're not extremely organized and we're not scatterbrained. When he can't find something, he will insist that he gave it to me," she says. "Then I find it on his desk. On rare occasions, I am wrong. On rare occasions, he's wrong."

Juge doesn't argue the point.

"There's nothing that I would change," he says. "I quit trying to change her after a year or so. I just figured out what she did well and went with it."

Although they consider themselves friends, Juge and Kashow rarely socialize outside work. There was the time he volunteered to be the photographer for Kashow's daughter's wedding. And they've been sympathetic to each other during family crises — both are family-oriented; Juge and his wife, Beth, married for 37 years, with two sons and three grandchildren; Kashow the mother of three and grandmother of seven. So when the work day is done, they're ready to leave the university and each other behind.

"We lead separate lives at the end of the day. We

say good-bye and see each other the next day," Juge says, adding that their working partnership "is a major slice of both of our lives professionally."

Nothing personal, but eight or nine hours together each day is enough, they say. The formula has worked well.

"We get along well. I think that's very important," says Juge, who had just two secretaries before Kashow came on board. "We have the same kind of sense of humor. We don't offend each other ... We've never had a cross word."

"If he would [have said] a cross word, I would cry and make him feel bad," Kashow jokes. "We're a lot alike. We can joke and laugh with and at each other. He'll tease me; I'll tease him. I admire him. He's a wonderful family man and a nice person with a laid-back personality."

"Anybody could come in and learn the job," she adds. "If your personalities don't click, it wouldn't work."

— Susan Loden



Frank Juge and Brenda Kashow have been working together for 20 years.

Jacque Brund

## Embracing cutting-edge technology

The university is making advanced technology part of routine campus life

UCF is spinning toward the new millennium on a web of wireless communication and high technology.

Engineering I, the Administration Building, Student Union meeting rooms, the Bookstore coffee shop and other locations are already equipped with wireless networking technology and the Library will be within a few months. By next fall, every dormitory room on campus will have Web access. And work is nearly complete on the high-tech Classroom Building,

which opens for classes this summer.

"The real drive toward the future here is coming from the campus community as people see the potential and begin to use technology to enhance what they do," says Joel Hartman, vice provost for Information Technologies and Resources. "We see the day when the entire campus will have both wired and wireless access, including outdoors — anywhere on campus."

The Classroom Building, the first new campus building of the next century, will have fully equipped multimedia presentation facilities, high-speed network access, student and faculty PC labs, production areas and two large high-tech auditoriums.

On-line courses and the univers-

ity's new Web page, which should be operating in January, are "areas where UCF is considered a leader," Hartman says. The Web site can now be accessed through the current UCF home page, and is up for review and input from faculty, staff and students.

"UCF has become one of the nation's leading institutions in on-line distributed learning. More than 13,000 students are enrolled in courses that make significant use of the Web. And we have developed a highly recognized program for assisting faculty to develop on-line courses and teach effectively in the on-line environment," Hartman says.

UCF also has the most comprehensive instructional television network in the State University System. The network extends to all branch campuses. More than 700 students enrolled in the TV courses this fall. Six degree programs — including liberal studies, nursing, vocational education and forensic science — are fully available on the Web, along with more than 200 courses. Two of them, vocational education and forensic science, offer both undergraduate and graduate programs.

A new twist is the development of courses that feature a mix of in-class study and Web work. UCF recently received a \$200,000 Pew Course Redesign Project grant to develop an

American national government course with the space-and-cost-saving blend, which research shows can improve student performance.

Some of the most intriguing technology will be in the Library.

"The Library will have notebook computers that students can check out to access Library resources from any location in the building. They will have total mobility and could access the catalog from back in the stacks, for example," Hartman says.

The cyber ties between the Bookstore and Library will increase with a catalog terminal in the Bookstore.

"We have expanded the modem pool. There is an increased number of lines and all lines are capable of handling the new ... high-speed modems," Hartman says.

In addition, there is a toll-free 800 number for dial-in access for faculty and staff traveling on university business. Access to the service is for one week at a time and can be requested at [www.ucf.edu./onthego](http://www.ucf.edu./onthego).

"The Web, through our network, is becoming our primary tool for delivering services and information," Hartman says. "We see significant expansion of services such as POLARIS. Increased services will be available 24 hours a day, on-line to students, faculty, staff and alumni."

— Susan Loden

# Call her tiger

At 72, Marion "Tiger" Denton will finally achieve a lifelong dream this month — she will receive a bachelor's degree

**L**ong before a fellow named Tiger Woods appeared on the national sports scene, Marion "Tiger" Denton earned her nickname for her feistiness, a trait that has helped her persevere during her fight with cancer and the death of her husband.

She called on that same gritty spirit to overcome the challenges of attending college at an age when most people would be content with retirement. During commencement ceremonies in the UCF Arena on Dec. 18, Tiger, 72, will receive a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and psychology.

Long ago, her immigrant parents — from Russia and Rumania — instilled the desire in their children to earn college degrees, but no one expected it to take so many years for her to accomplish that after growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"It's been my dream since I was a teenager. My mother taught me to always be willing to step in and learn," she says.

An early marriage, at age 17, to a career Army engineer delayed the dream, but brought her many exciting adventures and plenty of memories to savor. Over the past few years, however, learning has become a means of survival. A few months after her husband died three years ago, she commuted from her home in Melbourne to UCF's Brevard campus for classes.

"I cried all the way driving to Cocoa and back, but it saved me. It saved my life. My shrink was UCF," Tiger says.

**Marion "Tiger" Denton has earned a reputation for her feisty spirit, and will soon receive a bachelor's degree at age 72.**

Although Tiger is a believer that if she fails at something it's her responsibility, she feels that the help she received from UCF faculty and staff was important in her success.

"It was hard at first until I got into it. Then I got into using the computer. A lot of people care, especially the ones in Campus Life at the Brevard campus," she says, singling out Sue Halfhill, liberal studies adviser at the Brevard campus. "She was just wonderful. She even had students shadow me at first to make sure I made it to my classes."

Tiger earned an associate's degree in 1978 from Santa Fe Community College during the family's three-year stint farming

80 acres near Gainesville. When Tiger's husband's former job as an engineering consultant in Melbourne beckoned, the couple returned to the east coast, where they had moved after 21 years in the Army. Several years after returning to Melbourne, Tiger went on to earn a second associate's degree, this one from Brevard Community College in 1981.

Finishing her college career became possible because of the UCF classes offered at the Brevard campus.

Some of her most memorable moments in the quest for a bachelor's degree came while interning as an social worker.

"I saw heartbreak so terrible that you wonder how [the people] keep going. Many of these people just need that little bit of help that perhaps will allow them to stand on their own," she says.

That was not the first time she has helped those in need. Her husband's tour of duty took her to Europe, the Panama Canal and Africa. It was Africa that captured her heart. "The most wonderful tour of duty was in Ethiopia," she says. They lived there 1962-1965 at a small military base with the only company being Ethiopians and the American servicemen doing aerial mapping of the country.

"The Ethiopians are wonderful people, but very poor. Some live on the streets, building bonfires and singing and telling stories. They struggle to survive, but they are basically good people," she says.

Tiger and her husband would hire a nanny and a nanny's assistant for their children and hire natives for any other jobs they could think of just to provide work for the poor. Tiger taught one young girl to read.

The years of traveling left Tiger with many unusual, beautiful memories. "I remember eating lunch alongside the Panama Canal, watching the locks open and the boats pass; going to the Netherlands to see the tulips; standing on the Acropolis and exploring the pyramids in Egypt with my husband."

Over the years, she's also held some interesting jobs: bookkeeper for a military club in Ethiopia, secretary of the general's staff in Germany for five years in the overseas cable department, helping a speech pathologist for five years during the 1980s.

Besides school, Tiger keeps busy with volunteer work and her six children and 13 grandchildren, some of whom she helped raise, and all of who call her strictly by her nickname. "No one calls me grandma," she says.

Although she has done volunteer work all her life, currently she works mostly with the Yellow Umbrella, a Brevard County exchange club that works to prevent child abuse. "They call me 'Diaper Deputy' because each week I go out and get donations of diapers and other items from stores for needy people," she says.

Despite the busy schedule, she reserves time to do arts and crafts with her grandchildren. "We talk and do things together and they can tell me things they don't tell anyone else. I've always loved that closeness," Tiger says.

For her graduation, 15 of her family members, some from out of state, and close friends will be on hand. But those friends and family might be returning to UCF to witness another graduation ceremony soon afterward. Tiger plans on earning a graduate degree, possibly in psychology.

And that nickname?

Her husband tagged her with it during a particularly competitive bowling match and it just stuck. For a good reason.

— Joanne Griggs



Jacque Brund

*"It's [earning a bachelor's degree] been my dream since I was a teenager. My mother taught me to always be willing to step in and learn."*

Marion  
"Tiger" Denton

# Caught in the act



Photos: Jacque Brund

Engineering professor Amr Oloufa (center) posed with engineering scholarship winners during a reception in their honor, recently. The students are studying construction or civil and environmental engineering.



Florida Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan (left) recently presented an award to UCF for exceeding its overall dollar goal with vendors in the Minority Business Enterprise program. UCF's program is administered by Greg Robinson (second from right), assistant director for Purchasing. Also pictured are Ray Puskas, UCF's associate director for Purchasing, and Florida Secretary of Labor Mary Hooks.



Students in the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity marched at the Student Union late last month before the ceremonial unveiling of newly inducted members of the fraternity.

# Welcome

Ronald Gonzalez — senior groundskeeper, Physical Plant.

# Kudos

**Mindy Colton**, publications director in the Office of Public Relations, had a painting originally created for the UCF Music Scholarship program reproduced on the cover of the *Bluegrass Music News*, the official publication of the Kentucky Music Educators Association in October. The editor of the publication sought out the work.

**Meg Fitzgerald**, volleyball coach, was selected Trans America Athletic Conference coach of the year.

**Ke Francis**, art professor, has been invited to present the closing address to the annual meeting on the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts in Denver on March 25. NCECA is the national professional organization of ceramics artists, with a membership of 3,500.

**Johann Eyfells**, recently retired art professor, had a mixed media sculpture "Ghost Encounters 1" selected for inclusion in the exhibition "World Artists at the Millennium," curated by the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts and mounted in the United Nations visitors lobby in New York. This fall, Eyfells was honored by invitations to have two concurrent one-person shows, one at the UCF Art Gallery and the other at the Warehouse Gallery. Four of Eyfells' outdoor sculptures remain on public view at Orlando City Hall until Dec. 31.

**William Willmot**, adjunct professor at the Brevard campus, has been accepted as a member of the International Biographical Centre Advisory Council. Willmot's name and biographical sketch will appear in a forthcoming IBC publication titled "2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century," scheduled for release in late 2000.

**Ed Wycoff**, associate communication professor, was inducted into the Winter Park High School Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 13. He is the second from UCF to be inducted into the Winter Park Hall of Fame. The first was UCF baseball coach **Jay Bergman**.

# Brevard director Citizen of Year finalist

**James Drake**, director for the Brevard campus, was one of three finalists for the Gannett News/Florida Today Citizen of the Year award for 1999, awarded in late November.

The winner of the award was Marilyn Finney, a United Way of Brevard leader. Joining Drake as a runner-up was Catherine Ford of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy.

The selection of finalists in the categories of non-profit organization, volunteer, business and citizen of the year was made by committees of community leaders. The Citizen of the Year is recognized for having played a leadership role in development of new programs or securing resources to fund service efforts.

"My being selected a finalist stemmed from representing the university in a broad spectrum of organizations that directly impact the welfare of Brevard County: public education, law, health care, aerospace and charitable giving," Drake says. "I am honored that *The Florida Today* and our civic and business leaders have supported me for this prestigious award. It is a reflection of what the university means to Brevard County leaders."

Drake has been director of the branch for five years. He has served on more than 40 community committees, task forces and boards during that time.

— Susan Loden



# CALENDAR

**3**  
**Art (exhibition through Jan. 7):** Art Faculty Exhibition, UCF Art Gallery. 823-2676

**Art (Library exhibits through Dec. 31):** "Spacescapes," by Cecil Herring; "Venezuela: Its Art and Culture," by Alfredo Marquez; "Personal Development," by Mike Burgan; "Children and Young People: Listen, Learn, Live," by Sharon Douglass; "Music at UCF," by Lee Eubank; "Drive Smart, Drive Safe," by Erin Brown.

**Music:** Opera Workshop Final Concert, Visual Arts Auditorium, 7-10 p.m. 823-5973

**Sports:** Men's basketball vs. South Florida, UCF Arena, 8:30 p.m. 823-1000

**Sports (through Dec. 4):** Women's basketball Golden Knights Classic, UCF Arena. 823-1000

**7**  
**Forum:** Millennium Speakers Series — A Day of Peace in Central Florida: A Forum on Peace and Reconciliation in the World, featuring Nobel Peace Prize winners Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias, UCF Arena, 9-11 a.m. 317-7725.

**Lecture:** IST Modeling and Simulation Lecture Series — "Methods and Tools in Computer-Supported Taskforce Training," IST conference room, 2-3 p.m. 823-5000

**9**  
**Music (through Dec. 12):** Madrigal Feaste, 25th anniversary celebration, University Dining Room, 7:30 p.m., advance tickets required. 823-5687

**10**  
**Sports:** Men's basketball vs. Flagler College, UCF Arena, 7:30 p.m. 823-1000

**14**  
**Meeting:** AFSCME, EDU 214, noon-1 p.m.

## Holiday coffee with the Hitts

Faculty and staff are invited to attend a holiday coffee hosted by President John Hitt and UCF First Lady Martha Hitt on Wednesday, Dec. 8. The coffee will be in the Burnett House, the president's home, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



## Commencement ceremonies ahead

Commencement ceremonies are Saturday, Dec. 18, in the UCF Arena. Ceremonies are: College of Arts and Sciences, 8 a.m.; College of Health and Public Affairs, 11:30 a.m.; College of Business Administration, 3 p.m.; Colleges of Education and Engineering and School of Optics, 6:30 p.m. Line-up for processions are 20 minutes prior to each ceremony in the corridor outside room 115. Enter the arena on the first level under the main entrance stairway and proceed down the right corridor. Signs will be posted. Major professors assisting the doctoral hooding join their candidate(s) in the right corridor. Area roads are heavily congested prior to ceremonies. Plan accordingly. Academic regalia will serve as a parking pass for reserved parking in lot F-1 on the east side of the Arena.

## Center open around clock during finals

The Student Academic Resource Center is open 24 hours each day through Friday, Dec. 10, when it closes at 5 p.m., to provide students a place to study for final exams. SARC provides an academic setting, a place for study groups, computer and e-mail access, and tutoring services. For information, call 823-5130.

**16**  
**Seminar:** Noontime Knowledge Series — "The Fight for High Tech: How Metro Orlando is Winning the Battle," by Jackie Kelvington, Economic Development Com-

mission of Mid-Florida, Downtown Academic Center, noon-1 p.m. 317-7700

**18**  
**Ceremony:** Army ROTC Commissioning, Visual Arts Auditorium, 1-4 p.m. 823-2430  
**Commencement:** College of Arts and Sciences, 8 a.m.; College of Health and Public Affairs, 11:30 a.m.; College of Business Administration, 3 p.m.; Colleges of Education and Engineering and School of Optics, 6:30 p.m.

**19**  
**Sports:** Women's basketball vs. Texas Tech, UCF Arena, 5 p.m. 823-1000

**21**  
**Sports:** Men's basketball vs. North Carolina at Wilmington, UCF Arena, 7:30 p.m. 823-1000  
**Sports (through Dec. 22):** Women's basketball UCF Holiday Classic. 823-1000

**23**  
**Sports:** Men's basketball vs. Middle Tennessee State, UCF Arena, 7:30 p.m. 823-1000

**30**  
**Sports:** Men's basketball vs. Troy State, UCF Arena, 7:30 p.m. 823-1000  
**Sports:** Women's basketball vs. Monmouth, UCF Arena, 3 p.m. 823-1000

For a more complete calendar, check out the universitywide listing on the Web (<http://www.ucf.edu/pubrel/>).

# December

# CLASSIFIED

## For Sale

**Condo,** 2/2 in Waterford Lakes, \$79,900. 277-5419, evenings or leave message.

**Condo,** Tuskawilla, 2/2 1/2 in golf club community, all

appliances, \$58,500. Mitch, 856-6585 or msirota@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

**Couch,** black leather, made in Italy, only 2 years old, excellent condition. Paid \$1,400, now only \$600. For serious inquiries only, call James, 857-1707 or 823-3011.

**Home,** spacious 2/2 in Palm Valley. Convenient to UCF,

park-like view, fruit trees in 55+ community. Extras include 10x33-foot enclosed porch, built-in china closet, Jenn-Air island and side-by-side refrigerator. Community pool, shuffleboard, mini-golf, socials. \$49,900. 366-4570.

**Kia Sportage SUV,** 1998, 4 dr., cargo trunk. 5 spd., shiny white w/ gray cloth interior, tinted windows. Power window, lock and steering. Factory-installed radio, CD player, security alarm. 29k miles. Run, looks like new, still under warranty, no door dings, dents. Trying to downsize, need to give up, \$11,500 (below market value, sacrifice.) 823-2125.

**Miscellaneous,** 5-string banjo, \$70; 4-string banjo ukulele, \$40; dining room table and 4 chairs, excellent condition, \$55; electronic piano keyboard, \$50. 207-8065 or 823-5138.

**VW Westfalia Van Camper,** 1986, automatic, excellent condition, good tires, radio/tape stereo, tinted windows, pop top, stove, sink, 3-way refrigerator. 97K miles. \$8,000 obo. 366-4254 or e-mail bradley@mail.ucf.edu.

## For Rent

**Room/bath** in 2/2 home. Quiet neighborhood, short drive to UCF. Female n/s pref., no pets. Available January. \$325 mo. (includes utilities). 677-5385.

## Ballot to Spotlight Employee of the Month

I nominate: (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (campus address) \_\_\_\_\_  
 to be UCF Employee of the Month. (Nominee must have been a USPS employee at least two years.) Any employee, including faculty and A&P, may nominate a candidate on the basis of job performance, dependability, attitude, etc. A name submitted remains in the pool of eligible candidates for one year.  
 Signed: (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (campus address, phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Human Resources, ADM 230, EOM. USPS Council Web: <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~uspstal/> (Mark envelope "confidential.")