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## The UCF Report, Vol. 22 No. 18, March 31, 2000

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# UCF Report

Volume 22 • No. 18 • March 31, 2000

A publication for faculty and staff

## Computer team ranks in top one percent

UCF computer team ties with MIT for 15th place in worldwide competition for college students.

**A** tie with MIT for 15th in world competition places UCF's most recent computer team in the top 1 percent in the world, says Ali Orooji, faculty adviser and computer science professor. "You have to put things in perspective. I'm very happy, very proud," he says.

The three team members — Ambrose Feinstein, Jonathan Kolb and Phillip Dexheimer — had their sights on one of the top 10 positions at 2000 World Finals of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. They had hoped to match past UCF teams, five of which placed in the top 10 in world competition since 1982.

But a top 10 position may very well happen at next year's competi-



Jacque Brund

UCF student Phillip Dexheimer, left, works alongside his team members, Ambrose Feinstein, middle, and Jonathan Kolb, during the worldwide college contest in computer programming.

tion in Canada. "If the same team comes back next year, I wouldn't be surprised to see them place in the top five," Orooji says. As this was only their first world competition, all three

members of the team might be eligible for one more year — if no more than one of them graduates.

"All three are seniors, but I think only one will graduate by next fall,"

Orooji adds. "The team is allowed to have one graduate student."

Orooji admits that the problems presented at all of the contests nowadays are more difficult than in the past. "Ten years ago, you didn't have students learning programming in middle and high school. Now, you have to make the problems harder so they're a challenge. Also, you don't want any team to be able to solve all of the problems."

More than 13,000 students on 2,400 teams competed in regional contests around the world with 60 of those teams qualifying for the world contest. Participants came from such countries as Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Poland and Russia.

This year, the contest was held in Orlando at the Radisson Hotel Universal with Orooji as the director. The IBM-sponsored event included prestigious schools from around the country, including Harvard, Stanford, and the California Institute of Technology. First place was taken by St. Petersburg State University of Russia.

—Joanne Griggs

## UCF Downtown enrollment continues to boom

Cecelia Rivers, executive director for UCF Downtown, sees its new name as more descriptive of its mission.

**E**njoying enrollment growth greater than UCF's booming main campus and growing popularity as a meeting and workshop site, the university's Orlando business district center on Pine Street is experiencing a liveliness that eluded the place in its earlier incarnation as a funeral home.

In the three years since the renovated UCF facility at 36 W. Pine Street, now known as UCF Downtown, opened its doors to students, enrollment has ballooned from 117 students to 675 in the fall 1999 semester. The facility's executive director, Cecelia Rivers, anticipates an enrollment of 750 in the fall of 2001 and as many

as 1,000 students four years down the line.

Unlike UCF's main campus 13 miles east of Orlando, the downtown facility expresses personalities as different as night and day, depending on whether it is night or day. In the daytime, the center bustles mostly as a meeting place for UCF, community organizations and businesses and for non-credit workshops — more than 500 in the last academic year. In the late afternoon, a transformation to a more explicit academic center begins, as the student body of mostly downtown employees trades their seats at work for seats in UCF Downtown classrooms in their pursuit of degrees.

The facility's new UCF Downtown name better mirrors the facility's mission than its former moniker, UCF Downtown Academic Center, says Rivers, because it "more accurately reflects its mission of meeting the needs of non-traditional students at their place of need."

Please see DOWNTOWN, page 3

## Pet dander stirs up allergies

Pet dander and hair brought into offices by workers adds to air-quality problems.

"You make me sick" are words with a bite from an office mate if you inadvertently bring to work fallout from Lassie or Fluffy — dander and hair. Sure, these aren't the only impurities in office air that can trigger red eyes, runny noses, respiratory distress or rashes. But pet residue has been identified as a significant contaminant in some air-quality assessments on campus.

If your long-haired dog or your kitty has someone at home wheezing, hacking or coughing, you probably love Rover and Sheba enough to live with this allergic reaction. However, vulnerable co-workers may not be so adaptable. Even if you are not allergic, someone else, depending on their sensitivity and the state of his or her immune system, may suddenly have a negative reaction to animal residue. Residue you, without realizing it, are bringing to the office in your hair or on clothing.

Please see DANDER, page 7

Next issue of The UCF Report is April 14 • Deadline is noon, April 5

# March

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# Memos

To: Faculty and staff members

From: President John Hitt

Subject: United Arts Workforce Campaign

I am proud of the leadership role that the University of Central Florida takes in supporting important community causes. Because we believe strongly in community partnerships, we created the Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival in 1989 and became a trustee of the United Arts of Central Florida.

For the second year, UCF is inviting United Arts to request support through payroll deduction, charge cards, checks or cash. The solicitation is an efficient way for

United Arts to seek contributions for the major arts and cultural programs it supports in our area. As further evidence of the important role that UCF's own arts programs play, we have included the UCF art, music and theater programs in the appeal.

A United Arts brochure and pledge form has been mailed to you. As you know, we limit the number of appeals made to UCF faculty and staff each year, but I feel strongly that the United Arts Workforce Campaign enhances our opportunity to contribute to meaningful causes.

Please join me in supporting UCF's Workforce Campaign for the Arts. You can be sure that your gift will make a difference in the central Florida community and will enhance the quality of life we have all come to enjoy.

## A time for giving

Some of us might be more sinner than saint, but every now and then the folks we share our workweek with act a lot like angels.

The latest example of that was last weekend. Something like 200 UCF employees and students spent 24 hours hiking around the Arena track to raise money for cancer research and education. Sixteen UCF teams, with 10-15 walkers each, camped out next to the Arena during the Relay for Life to ensure the march continued for 24 hours straight. The good folks raised \$38,000, but regardless of the dollar figure, what a great job.

Sappy as it sounds, it's good-hearted people like those who make working at UCF special. Over and over again, the faculty, staff and students here answer the call for help. When the Orlando Naval Training Center and its thousands of blood donors moved out of town, it was UCF — students mostly — that rolled up its sleeves. Each year when the United Way and the Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign comes knocking, we dig into

### From the ivory tower

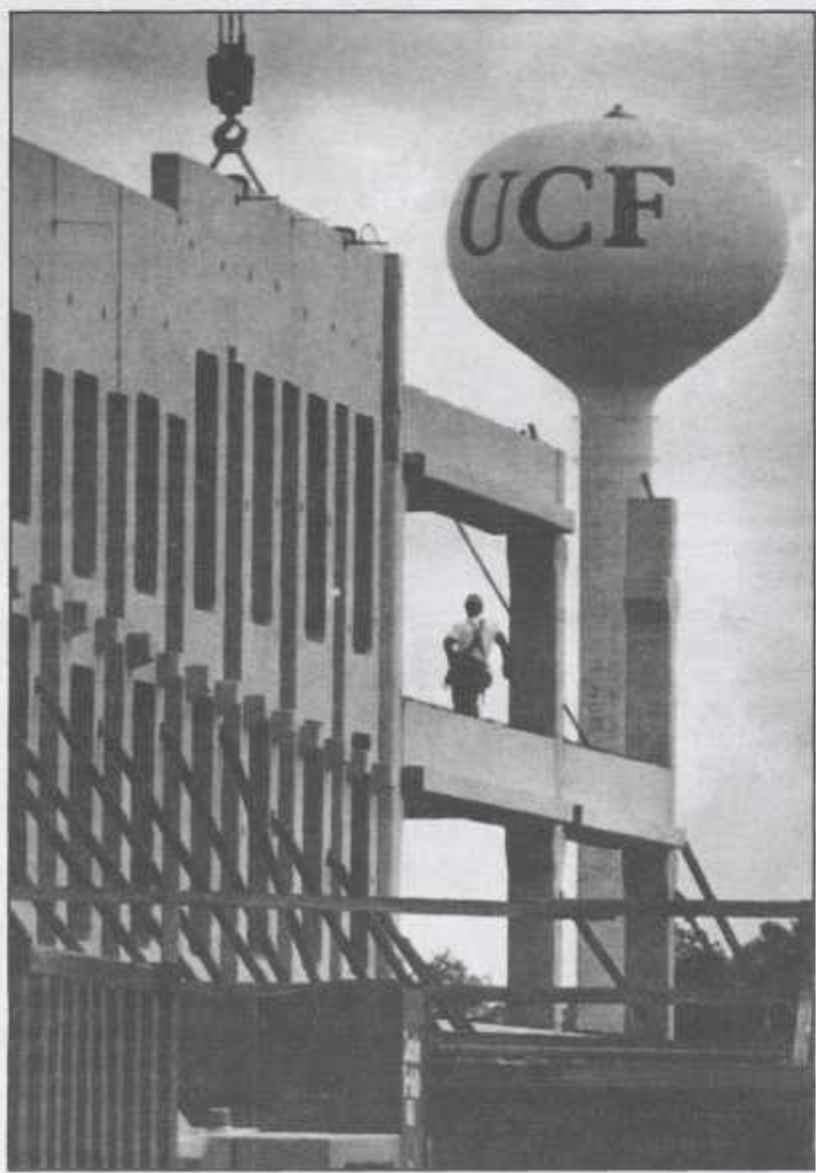
our pockets. A few months ago, when Hurricane Floyd teased central Florida, a dozen or so high-ranking administrators spent an evening making tuna sandwiches for evacuees in the UCF Arena. Our campus police and Student Alumni Association, for the past couple of winters, have collected toys for children who might not otherwise have gifts under the Christmas tree. Our students, many of them through fraternities, sororities, clubs and groups, spend a large part of their time raising money for charities and volunteering in places like elementary schools and youth centers.

And the thing is, the stuff our students and co-workers do at and through UCF is just a peek at a much bigger picture. We've got people here who, individually and on their own, volunteer thousands of hours working in the community.

Those are the kinds of things that are important. And not only for us as individuals, but for us as a community and as a university. It's those selfless acts of kindness — not the number of dollars we can stuff under our mattress — that are a true measure of our worth. When all is said and done, no one except our banker is going to miss us if we are rich in money or power but poor in spirit.

Not to preach, but it seems to me that life is sweetest when we are sharing our time and treasure, not hoarding them. Thankfully, there are people at UCF like those 200 folks at last weekend's Relay for Life. They might not be angels or saints, but they're sure nice people.

— David Finnerty



Jacque Brund

### The pause that refreshes

A worker waits for a crane to hoist building materials to where he's working on UCF's third parking garage, situated across from Recreation Services.

## Pulitzer Prize winner featured at lecture

Former Poet Laureate of the U.S. Rita Dove will be the 2000 Distinguished Author for this year's annual lecture on Thursday, April 6, at 8 p.m. in the Arena. Dove has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the national Medal in the Humanities, the Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities, and the Sara Lee Frontrunner Award. Her most recent publications are the poetry collection "Mother Love," the dramas "The Darker Face of the Earth," "On the Bus with Rosa Parks," and "Seven

for Luck," a song cycle with music by John Williams, which premiered at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For \$15, participants can attend a private reception and book signing at 6 p.m.

For information, contact the Department of English at 823-2212 or see the Web site: <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~english>.

## Alumni Relations captures CASE awards

The UCF Alumni Association swept the awards at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District III Conference held Feb. 20-23 in Atlanta. The association captured five of these prestigious awards, which were judged by peers at colleges and universities throughout the Southeast.

Three of the awards were presented in the category of Alumni Relations Project. Homecoming 1999 and 1999 Black & Gold Gala each received an Award of Excellence. The association's Chapter Challenge Program, through which alumni chapters earn points for community and university

service and chapter events, won a Special Merit Award.

The Alumni Association's newly redesigned Web site, [www.ucfalumni.com](http://www.ucfalumni.com), won an Award of Excellence in the category of Overall Web Site Design and Implementation.

Out of more than 80 entries in the Direct Mail category, UCF received an Award of Merit for the Alumni Association's YIPEE! Graduation card.

CASE District III is composed of colleges and universities in 14 southeastern states.

### Senior send-off celebration

The UCF Alumni Association and the Bookstore are teaming up to present a Senior Send-Off Celebration, '70s style on April 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All departments are invited to participate in wishing our grads well and offering them other services at the university that they can use as alumni. If you are interested in participating, e-mail [gert@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:gert@mail.ucf.edu) for information.

### The UCF Report

The UCF Report is a publication of the Office of University Marketing, Division of University Relations, University of Central Florida, P.O. Box 160090, Orlando, FL 32816-0090, (407) 823-2504. Publication of announcements and official memoranda about university policy and procedures in The UCF Report constitutes official notice to faculty and staff.

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# Short Takes

## Symposium to offer practical tips

The Celebrate Literacy Symposium will present practical strategies for teachers working to improve literacy. Cheryl Cassano, assistant principal for Celebration School, will be the keynote speaker. Students, faculty, local educators and the general public are invited to the April 6 event from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, 174A, in the Education Building. For information, contact Vicky Zygouris-Coe at 823-0386.

## Polish Club to meet

The Polish Club will meet on Friday, April 21, at 4 p.m. in the Education Building, room 178, for membership recruitment, election of officers, a film "Fire and Sword" (in Polish with English subtitles) and refreshments. For information, call 352-6569.

## Pick-up offered for speedy delivery

UCF OfficePlus will pick up FedEx packages and letters. Pick-up must be made before 2 p.m. to ensure packages will be sent the same day. For information, call 823-3115 or e-mail [offsply@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:offsply@mail.ucf.edu). OfficePlus Web page is [www.ucfofficeplus.com](http://www.ucfofficeplus.com).

## Sign-ups being held for basketball camp

Kirk Speraw Basketball Day Camps will be held on June 5-8, June 19-23 and June 26-30 at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and include a daily lunch, camp basketball and camp T-shirts. On July 1, the Kirk Speraw Shooting Camp will be held at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and also includes lunch. These camps are held at the UCF Arena. Contact the men's basketball office for a camp brochure at 823-5805.

## Cypress Dome applications due

Cypress Dome, UCF's award-winning undergraduate literary magazine, is looking for talented undergraduate students to become next year's staff. Students interested in editing, production, layout and general editorial tasks should apply by April 3. Editors participate in a three-credit internship. Applicants should send a brief letter summarizing qualifications and interest to Susan Hubbard, Cypress Dome faculty adviser, HFA, room 303F or e-mail [shubbard@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:shubbard@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu).

## Win airline tickets for two from Alumni

Did you know that you don't have to be a graduate of UCF to become a member of the Alumni Association? Membership costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$40 for joint membership. Benefits include discounts at restaurants, hotels, car rentals and UCF merchandise; invitation to special events, group travel and community service projects. Join or renew between April 1-30 to be entered in a drawing to win two round-trip tickets anywhere in the continental U.S. For every additional friend or co-worker you get to join, participants will receive an additional chance to win the drawing. For information, call UCF-ALUM or e-mail:

# UCF expertise wins grants for work abroad

Grants link UCF faculty in partnerships with their peers in South Africa and Peru.

A South African university will get the benefit of the combined expertise of UCF and its partners with a \$460,000 USAID grant. The United States Agency for International Development selected the Central Florida Consortium — UCF, Daytona Beach Community College and Bethune-Cookman College — over numerous other applicants.

"We were chosen because the needs expressed to the USAID by Vista University in South Africa are areas where the consortium has expertise," says Mathilda Harris, director for the Office of International Studies. "The consortium brings together three very diverse institutions with combined strengths and unique qualities."

UCF will assist Vista University — under the auspices of USAID's Project EXCEL, Excellence through Cooperative Educational Linkages — with academic staff development in teaching and conducting research in computer science and information technology, public administration and chemistry. The project will also develop and adapt technology for distance learning, including the most effective teaching methods; a redirecting of the humanities program to make it more pragmatic;

and the formation of a long-term link between the consortium and Vista University.

Bethune-Cookman College will head up work in the area of African Studies; UCF's Florida Solar Energy Center will provide expertise about energy; and the College of Business Administration's International Business 2000 will assist with business administration.

In other activities of the Office of International Studies in conjunction with Karen Biraimah, chair for Educational Foundations, 16 UCF faculty will each be linked with a local kindergarten-12 social sciences and humanities teacher for a six-week study abroad in Peru, thanks to a \$53,500 Fulbright-Hayes Group Projects Abroad grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program will bring more internationalization into the local schools as well as augmenting UCF's partnerships with Peru.

"It will increase our understanding of Peru and South America, and allow us to find new research partners and work to make those into ongoing relationships," says Harris.

"UCF rated number one in competition [for the grant] against 134 other applicants. We already have the contacts and have done a lot of work in this area. Also, they [selection committee] liked the idea that the link between our faculty and the kindergarten-12 teachers will be an ongoing program," she says.

—Joanne Griggs

DOWNTOWN, continued from page 1

Most of the non-traditional students are employed full time at downtown businesses and have busy personal and professional obligations that limit their time and flexibility, Rivers notes. "While there is a high demand for programs leading to bachelor's and master's degrees, many of the employees do not need or want the college credit and are only interested in expanding their knowledge base in an area critical to their business," she explains.

In response, UCF Downtown now offers a menu of open enrollment courses, the popular Noontime Knowledge Series that has featured such subjects as "Servant-Leader Ethic" and "Myths and Realities of Aging" and daylong or multi-day workshops and seminars sponsored by main-campus centers and departments.

Currently, the center offers nine-credit programs, several classrooms, a computer laboratory

and a 130-seat auditorium. A law library, created partly by contributions from the Gray, Harris and Robinson law firm, Barry University School of Law and the now disbanded Naval Training Center, is scheduled to open in late spring.

Just as students are drawn largely from downtown businesses, much of the advice that UCF Downtown seeks for shaping its programs comes from professionals and residents with Orlando connections or interests. Volunteer committees advise on strategic planning, marketing and program development.

The UCF Downtown building, once the Carey Hand Funeral Home, was donated to UCF in 1995 by the city of Orlando. After extensive interior renovations, the facility opened for classes in time for the fall term of 1996. It is a two-story structure built in 1920 in Tuscan-Revival style.

—Dean McFall



Jacque Brund

## Yardwork

UCF student Jacklyn Mayer writes a research paper for an American Sign Language class on her laptop computer.



# Relay for Life 2000

Relay for Life 2000 at UCF raised more than \$125,000 this year with UCF's 34 teams bringing in \$38,000. UCF was one of six sites in central Florida to hold the American Cancer Society event.

"This is our fourth year and it keeps growing each year," says Karen Breakell, director of Constituent Relations and co-chair for the event. President John Hitt served as honorary chair. "Last year, the event raised \$100,000 with a total of 63 teams. This year, we had a total of 84 teams at the UCF event."

Breakell says that 60 percent of the monies raised stay in the central Florida area for programs and services to fight cancer; the other 40 percent funds cancer research and assists families affected financially by cancer.

"Funding has gone to 29 Nobel Prize-winning scientists, one who came up with the Pap smear test and another who developed the procedure for bone marrow transplants," Breakell says.

This year's theme was 20th century news stories. Teams created tents built around such themes as the counterculture in the '60s, disco in the '70s and Scooby Doo.

Many local organizations contributed to the success of the event. Disney's Celebration raised more than \$7,000; the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort raffled off a two-night stay in one of its penthouse suites; Loco's cooked food for six hours and donated the proceeds to the event; the Olive Garden donated the dinner for the more than 100 cancer survivors attending the event.

Orange County Public Schools and WFTV-Channel 9 were partner sponsors along with UCF.



Connie Ferriola, chair of the Board for the Orlando Metro Unit of the American Cancer Society, presents President John Hitt with a plaque in appreciation of his role as honorary chair.



Right, Dennis Dulniak, Registrar, blows bubbles while Bryan Morris, Registrar, gets into the mood of their hippie theme.



Left, Shirley Holshek, cancer survivor, and her daughter Karen stand in front of the Memory Wall where participants posted the names of those who were victims of cancer.



Survivors listen to speeches at the opening ceremony.



More than 100 survivors took the first lap of the relay. Far right, Tom Sobey, survivor of cancer and husband of Linda Sobey, Library, was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony.

Photos by Jacque Brund



# Specialists fight repetitive-use injuries

UCF experts search for ways to stop work-related injuries.

It's hard to believe, but simply by performing their jobs each day millions of people open the door to painful injuries that may leave them permanently disabled. The World Health Organization says that musculoskeletal disorders (MSD), often caused by repetitive or improper motion, are the No.1 injury facing the world.

The problem is so serious that an Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposal before Congress, if approved, will set ergonomic standards and mandate that American employers take precautions to ensure that workers are shielded as much as possible from on-the-job tissue and skeletal damage. Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), a debilitating inflammation of hand and wrist tissue caused by repetitive use, has been diagnosed in about 20 percent of the work force in high-risk jobs, such as data entry. CTS is targeted as a top priority for elimination by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

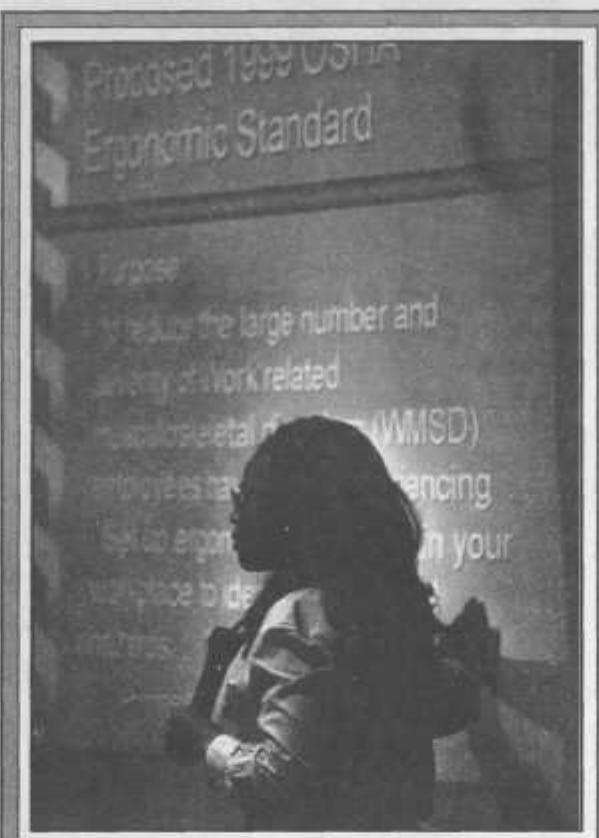
More than 30 percent of occupational injuries in the U.S. are MSD related and cost American industry about \$13 billion annually. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that disorders associated with repeated motion increased from four cases out of 10,000 workers to more than 30 cases per 10,000 workers over seven years.

As we enter the 21st century, with more and more workers spending more and more hours at computer keyboards, ergonomics — the way we interact with our tools and workplace — is a primary concern of companies across the country attempting to avoid costly, life-changing injury.

In Chris Carver, safety coordinator for the Environmental Health and Safety Department, UCF has an in-house expert available to evaluate the ergonomics of any department and recommend changes. "It's actually a science and an art, fitting the work to the employee," says Carver. "We totally redesigned the chilled water plant control room, the work station, the computer layout." Carver also trains Physical Plant and maintenance workers how to lift items and how to use tools properly.

There's no charge for a department to have Carver assess the work environment and make ergonomic recommendations. However, it's up to each office to pay for the furnishings or equipment that would enhance health, safety and productivity. It's ideal, he says, if he is called in before new purchases are made. However, he can assess an existing environment and recommend changes as well.

Pamela McCauley-Bell, associate professor of industrial engineering and management system, travels the nation to educate business operators and



**Pamela McCauley-Bell, associate professor of industrial engineering, explained how business owners and employees can avoid repetitive-type of injuries that plague many workers. She describes the proposed standards by OSHA during an ergonomics conference on campus recently.**

## UCF IN THE 21ST CENTURY

employees on what they can do on their own to prevent MSD. "When people see that legislation is about to be instituted, they usually take it upon themselves to make changes," says McCauley-Bell. "If they don't want the standards, private industry should step up to the plate and make changes without legislation. That would be the wise approach. I don't expect the ergonomics standards to pass. I do think we need them, because many organizations don't understand what they need to do to prevent these injuries. Standards would clarify what is expected by OSHA. If you willfully expose people to injury, you can be fined. Many won't take the initiative to prevent MSD, despite soaring workers compensation and health insurance costs."

McCauley-Bell, who since 1994 has had an active application with the NASA Astronaut Candidate

Program, would love to contribute ergonomics expertise to the building of a space station, or to take her skills into orbit. "When astronauts walk in space, they are out there six to eight hours performing tasks," she notes. "They would be on a space station for six months. That's not enough time to develop a repetitive-use injury, but just the same, we should be very concerned about the musculoskeletal system as a risk factor in weightlessness.

"Ergonomists want to reduce pain and suffering," she says. "It troubles me when I know how much of this is preventable. It is very challenging to recover fully from a back injury. Back injuries are still the No. 1 injury [for MSD], but we are seeing an increase in cumulative trauma injuries. Many organizations do not take any action to mitigate the risks. It is penny-wise and dollar foolish not to proceed with the standards. There needs to be a lot of preventive effort, rather than reaction. Many industries do have successful ergonomics programs, but many do not. Often, with ergonomics, you don't immediately see the impact of changes. It takes time for these injuries to develop. If we are successful in preventing them, some will say we were not needed.

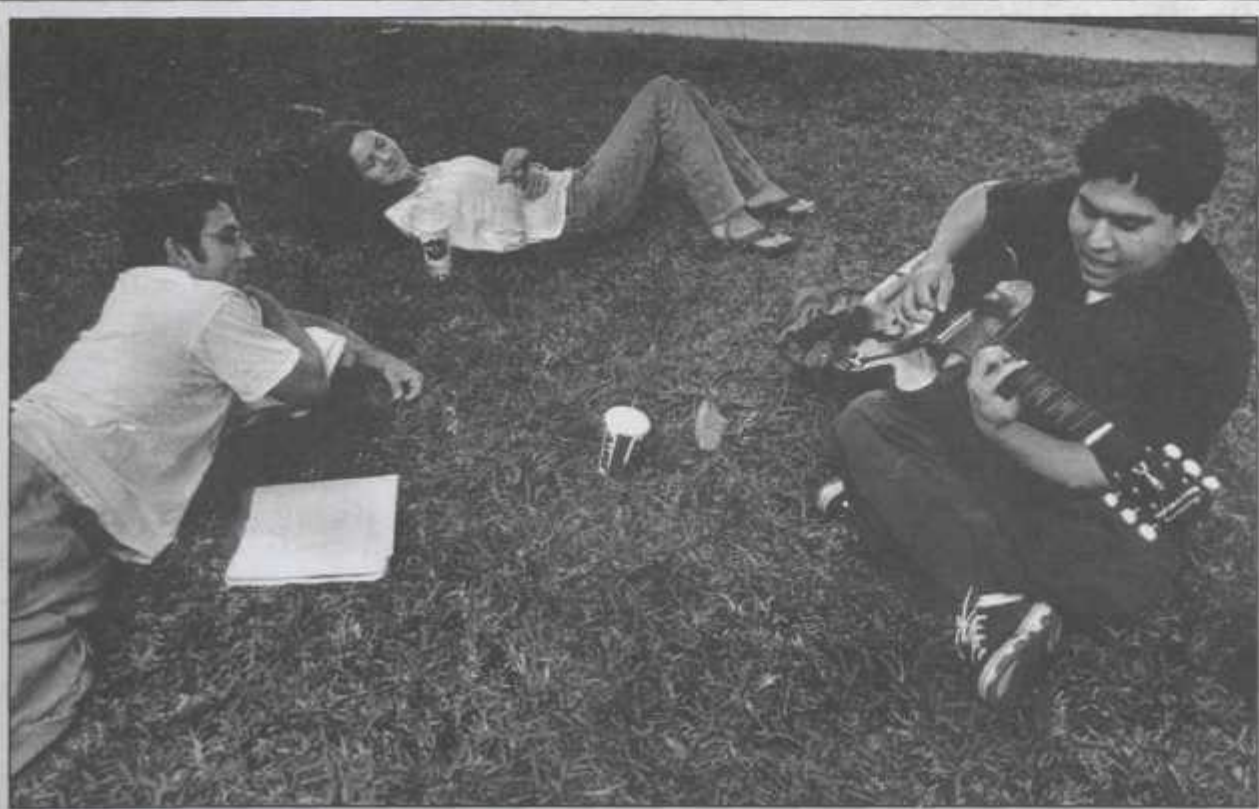
"Awareness is such a big part of it. In central Florida, we've such a high-tech area with so many hand-intensive tasks," McCauley-Bell says, "that I would like to see some real action here. The hospitality industry also has a lot of very repetitive tasks. They should purchase ergonomic tools. Ergonomic is a buzz word. Don't buy something because it says 'ergonomic'. Buy it if it's designed to use to prevent injury."

She points out that the minimum cost of a CTS, "a life-altering condition," which often is treated with surgery, is \$20,000. Forty-eight percent of those diagnosed with CTS are unable to return to work, or if they do, will re-injure themselves if changes are not made in their workstation and how they interact with it.

The cost of creating an ergonomically sound workplace, "depends on the size of the business and the number of ergonomic interventions they currently have in place." McCauley-Bell adds, there are fairly simple, inexpensive things that can be done. "I can show an employer how to reduce severe wrist injury factors for less than \$2,000. Many ergonomics interventions cost less than \$100. Keyboards can be modified for less than \$100; a good ergonomic chair with armrests costs about \$300. Software that encourages hourly breaks of five minutes each can be installed for \$30. This is not expensive and will improve productivity and morale.

"You can't design all problems out. You want to engineer the problems out, or have administrative control to encourage people to lift properly or to use personal protective equipment," she concludes.

—Susan Loden



Jacque Brund

## Noontime serenade

During a break from his studies, UCF student Angel Iglesias entertains two friends on the lawn near the Reflecting Pond.



# Face-lift gives Reflecting Pond new look

Student Government is providing most of the funds for installing a filtration system and new fountain.

Surely, you've noticed the Reflecting Pond is a dry shell that has been ripped apart. Instead of the usual single spout pouring water into a serene aqua blue basin, there's a big channel of dirt scarring this landmark. Is this an attempt at UCF to change the pond's image? No doubt. A face-lift is due for the 30-something-year-old pool.

A new filtration system is being added and the fountain is being replaced with a more spectacular model. The new fountain will have one central jet surrounded by two sets of jets, eight feet apart. The upgrade should be finished in early May. The project, jointly funded by Student Government and UCF, will cost about \$500,000, with Student Government providing about 80 percent of the funds.

Nelson Stiles, associate director for operational services for the Physical Plant, says the improvements should keep the Reflecting Pond looking cleaner longer. "We used to have to send someone to clean the pond once a day, but when the new filtration system is installed we are hoping that we will only be sending people out to clean it once a week or less," says Stiles.

Stiles will be happy to see the transformation. "The new fountain is going to look great. The administration decided on the new look, and I think it's going to be impressive."

The Reflecting Pond has been a fixture at UCF since day one, however many students, faculty and



Workers survey an area near the Reflecting Pond, which has been dug up during the installation of the new filtration system and new fountain.

staff have noticed that it didn't always look its best.

Communication major Eamonn Donlyn says that the filtration system is a good idea "I always see people cleaning the Reflecting Pond, almost every day. It doesn't stay clean very long. I always

wondered why there wasn't a filter in place."

"The Reflecting Pond is a tradition at UCF, and it needed a little special attention," Stiles concludes.

— Paul Wilson

## Task force of administrators studies student drinking

A UCF task force is assessing patterns of student use and abuse of alcohol for future recommendations to the president.

Booze and students is a sad, old story and one that UCF and other universities are grappling with in the wake of related deaths and other problems that have surfaced and persist on campuses across the nation.

A recent Harvard School of Public Health survey of 14,000 undergraduates from 119 four-year colleges, shows that 44 percent were binge drinkers, downing at least four or five drinks in a row at least once over a two-week period. However, 19 percent said they never drink alcohol, while 23 percent claim to binge drink even more, at least three times in two weeks. The researcher says that education alone will not solve this problem, because heavy-drinking students don't think they have a problem.

For the past year, in partnership with President John Hitt, who is concerned about the mix of alcohol, students and the community, an Alcohol Task Force of UCF administrators, staff, researchers, police and students has been assessing students' drinking habits. The group is almost ready to make recommendations on how to most effectively address the issue at UCF.

The task force, says Tom Huddleston, vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services, expects to call for enhancement of existing and the creation of more alcohol-free on-campus activities that will appeal to more students. More research on drinking patterns will be done for a strategic plan, which will probably develop to foster a communitywide commitment to prevent alcohol abuse.

"We're participating in a core study of 1,000 UCF students to understand the climate of alcohol

use and abuse on campus," Huddleston says. "Once we have these findings, we will be able to mix them with the task force's yearlong discussions and frame issues for consideration and recommendations to the president or provost."

While the task force has been at work, UCF police's efforts have forced student alcohol use off campus, through beefed up enforcement and consequences, including education and community service in substance abuse settings, says Sgt. Jerry Emert. His Substance Abuse Prevention, Education and Enforcement unit is tuned in to drivers whose impairment is not obvious, which makes them especially dangerous.

"Students are very aware of increased enforcement," says Emert. "They're being a lot more careful. There are more designated drivers that are sober, not drunk. Our goal is to get them to move back on campus with parties — following the rules, while having a good time. My unit has not arrested any underage drinkers or anyone for minor infractions in a year ... We've moved them away from being a UCF police problem, but alcohol use by students is still a UCF problem."

Freshmen struggle most with alcohol use and abuse, and Greeks have been notorious for boozing it up. However, both Huddleston and Emert see many fraternities pulling the plug on alcohol use at their parties and activities. The university is also reaching out to students who live off campus. "We do cross the street and have peer group programs in their environments," says Huddleston.

— Susan Loden

## Washington awards honor past professor



John Washington

The featured speaker at the Dr. John T. Washington Awards and Scholarship Luncheon will be psychologist Ernest Howard Johnson, author of the popularly received book "Brothers on the Mend: Understanding and Healing Anger."

Johnson's book was one of five self-improvement books published in 1999 to earn a literary award for Books for a Better Life.

The luncheon will be held on April 18, noon to 2 p.m. at the Student Union, Cape Florida Ballroom.

Awards for an adult and a youth for community service to the African American communities in Orange or Seminole counties will be presented as well as scholarship/service awards to UCF students who are African Americans.

The annual event honors Washington, one of the first African Americans to hold a faculty position at UCF. An associate professor of sociology, Washington was a pioneer in sensitizing individuals and organizations to the needs and aspirations of African Americans and was instrumental in establishing the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunities, the African American Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Student Services at UCF. The UCF Student Services Building was named in his honor.

Individual seating costs \$35; corporate tables are \$300 each. For information, contact the African American Studies Program at 823-0026. Seating is limited.



# UCF student bikes across country for Journey of Hope

This summer, Daniel Jones will be "going the extra mile" for people with disabilities. Actually, he'll be going 3,500 extra miles on his bicycle. Jones is a senior management information systems major in the College of Business Administration and program assistant/Web designer for the Division of Continuing Education.

On June 7, he will join 59 other students from universities across the nation on a 63-day Journey of Hope. From San Francisco to Washington, D.C., the cyclists will journey about 70 miles a day from city to city, bringing the message of Push America.

Push America, a non-profit organization, works to improve the lives of people with disabilities through service, volunteerism, education and awareness. "I have worked with people with disabilities before, and I had such a positive experience. I'm doing this to help

DANDER, continued from page 1

If you play with your pet while wearing your work clothes, you may be contaminating your work site. "People who have pets that shed, if they notice they are picking hair off of their clothes, this should be a reminder," says Diane Jacobs, professor of molecular and microbiology. "If they've got hair on themselves, they might be taking it somewhere else ... Of course, you don't see everything you carry in. If you see some hair, there is more on you than what you can see."

Jacobs, who is an immunologist, is quick to point out, "If you work in a building known to have air-quality problems, it's not fair to put the burden on individuals who may bring something in, rather than on the building. You can't forget about the other things that impeach air quality."

However, in 1997, when an effort was made to remove contaminants from suites on the second floor of the Administration Building, high levels of pet dander and hair remained in some areas. An air-quality consultant firm showed that after successful efforts were made to remove mold from air systems and the remains of dustmites and cockroaches from the carpet, second tests showed elevated levels of both dog and cat residue.

Specific guidelines for dog allergens have not been established by the EPA. However, 1-8 micrograms of feline residue per gram of dust are considered "significant" and may trigger an allergic reaction. More than 8 micrograms per gram [mg/g] of dust are a "high risk for acute asthmatic attack."

In June 1997, 1 and .2 mg/g of cat allergens were found in two offices. The same offices had 3.2 and .5 mg/g of dog allergens. In a follow-up test in December, the feline contaminants had elevated to 11.7 mg/g and .3, while canine contaminants shot up to 13 mg/g and 1.3. At the same time, dustmite feces, typically the most prevalent contaminant in dust, to which more people are sensitive, remained at .12 mg/g in one office, and dropped from .61 mg/g to .28 in the other office that was the most contaminated with dog and cat allergens.

An independent 1998 EPA assessment of the air-quality in suites on the east side of the third floor of that same building did not address canine contaminants. However, 5.88 mg/g of feline allergens were found in carpet dust, reports Jose

Vazquez, indoor air-quality coordinator for UCF's Environmental Health and Safety Department.

These tests confirm that some of us do bring in enough pet residue to cause a significant or serious allergic reaction in the sensitive. Whether this dog and cat matter is actually making anyone sick is a tough call. "If this were a perfect world, when people were tested for allergies, you should be able to tell the difference between (reaction to) dog dander and dustmites," Jacobs observes. "If I had an allergy, I would make every effort to find out as much as possible about the specific thing I was allergic to. Allergies are really strange things ... To find what's causing an allergic reaction, you start by eliminating things from the environment and then gradually put them back. To try to find out what's happening in an office of 20 people, it's a detective story. As scientists we like to have all the information we can possibly get. That frequently doesn't happen."

"The environment is filled with all sorts of things we'd like to get rid of: perfume, chemicals from dry cleaning our clothes, solvents from printers on the paper, exhaust from printers, pollen ... The only thing I know of that offers some possibility of protection is room-size HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters that can be put in individual offices to filter the air ... With aromas, you have to ventilate those out," she says.

Over the past several years, measures have been taken to improve air quality in UCF buildings, through retooling and cleaning air handlers, renovating suites and the use of vacuum cleaners with super-efficient HEPA filters that don't force microscopic allergens back into the air. In air handlers on campus, Vazquez says, "We have installed filters very close to HEPA filters. We use filters that are at least 30 percent efficient throughout the university."

—Susan Loden

## Looking for story ideas

Are you a collector of the strange, unusual or interesting?

If so, e-mail us at

jgriggs@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu  
or call 823-2506.

## New hotline for information

A callprocessing tree allows callers to get directions to the campus from various points, and get phone numbers for branch campus and local hotels.

For on- and off-campus users or to transfer callers to the line, call 407-882-0909.

# Welcome

Mihai Gata, senior technical assistant; Renee Luers-Gillispie, head softball coach, Athletics; Colin McGuire, police communications operator, Police Department; Arlene Murphy, senior secretary, Honors College; Nayade Woodbury, administrative services coordinator, Institute of Simulation and Training.

# Kudos

J. D. Applen, assistant English professor, published "Encountering Hypertext Technology: Student Engineers Analyze and Contrast Web Pages," *Weaving a Virtual Web: Practical Approaches to New Information Technologies*.

Jocelyn Bartkevicius, assistant English professor, published "The Self as a Literary Construct: Third Person Limited in Memoir," in *The Writer's Chronicle*. She was coordinator of William Trowbridge poetry reading in October and was also noted in *The Best American Essays 1999* for "Hat Check Noir."

A Cottrell College Science Award of \$36,000 has been made to Kevin Belfield, chemistry, for his work in nonlinear organic photochemistry. The Cottrell College Science Program supports basic research in chemistry, physics and astronomy at public and private, predominantly undergraduate, colleges.

Kathleen Bell, associate English professor, presented "Report on AP Summer Institute 1999" at the College Board Southern Regional Office in Atlanta, in December. Bell was a participant in the College Board focus group on summer programs in New York also in December and a participant in Honors College first Rhodes Scholarship interviews in November.

Melody Bodon, assistant English professor, was a representative on the Dean's College of Arts and Sciences and College of Education Liaison Committee for work with public education.

Lynn Casmier-Paz, assistant English professor, presented "Public Problems: Finding the Function of Ex-Slave Narratives" at the roundtable discussion at the Guest Speaker Series at the St. Louis University in November.

Adenike Davidson, assistant English professor, presented "African American and Afro-Caribbean Interdisciplinary Teaching," to the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and was also a judge for the Asian American Association Essay Contest in December.

Jerome Donnelly, associate English professor, presented "Dryden and the Exoteric Tradition: Absalom and Achitophel and the Ages of Man" at the International Conference on Dryden and the World of New-Classicism in Salzburg, Austria, in October.

B. Grant Hayes, assistant professor of counselor education, published "Assessing Counselor Education Students' Attitudes Toward Computers and Multimedia Instruction" in the *Journal of Humanistic Counseling, Education and Development*.

The annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of the College Music Society took place in Lafayette, La. on February 24-26. Keith Koons, Department of Music, led a panel discussion and also presented a paper entitled "Mozart, Sussmayr and the Clarinet."

A. Jeanne Miller, associate professor of education at the Brevard campus, is one of two senior educators recently chosen by the International Society for Exploring Teaching Alternatives (ISETA) to receive that organization's Distinguished Fellow Award. She joins an elite group of educators honored as extraordinary teachers, recognized for their contributions to higher education. She and a math education professor at UCLA, join only six other educators so honored throughout the organization's 30-year history.

## President's Focus on Excellence Breakfast

The little things that add up to big advances and a booming, research-driven program at UCF, will be the center of attention at the President's Focus on Excellence Breakfast: Biomolecular Research and Technology. The breakfast is slated for April 7, at 7:30-9 a.m. at Church Street Station, downtown Orlando. Public school science teachers and career counselors have been invited to join other educators and community and industry leaders for the event.



# CALENDAR

1

**Arena:** Miss UCF Scholarship Pageant, 8 p.m.

**Library exhibitions through April**

"The Holocaust: the Liberators" by Moshe Pelli; "College of Education Publications" by Larry Hudson; "Les Bi Gay Awareness Month" by Roy Perez; "Excellence in Computer Science" by Charles Hughes; "Y2K is Y2Q" by Terri Langford; "Making a Difference through Social Work" by Mary Van Hook.

**Music:** Florida Orchestra Association District Competition, Visual Arts Building Auditorium, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 823-5973.

**WUCF-FM 89.9:** Die Walkure, Wagner, 12:30 p.m.

2

**Music:** Haydn Quartet (The Netherlands) with Deniz Gelenbe and Lee Eubank, Saint Saens piano quintet, Schubert "Trout" quintet, Rehearsal Hall, \$7.50, 3 p.m. 823-3312.

Brass Band Concert, Visual Arts Building Auditorium, 6-10 p.m. 823-5973.

3

**Recreational Services:** Edge 4 on 4 Flag Football sign-up deadline. 823-2408

4

**Music:** Synthesizer Ensemble Concert, Rehearsal Hall, free, 8 p.m. 823-3312

6

**Arena:** Distinguished Author Rita Dove, "On the Bus with Rosa Parks," free, 8 p.m. 823-2212

**Conference:** Society for the Study of Southern Literature, "The South in the New Millennium," Holiday Inn Select, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 823-2212.

**Meeting:** Steering Committee, Philip Hall, room 206, 4-5:30 p.m.

**Music:** UCF Orchestra Concert, St. Lukes Lutheran, Oviedo, 7:30 p.m.

**Theatre (through April 16):**

## Second Annual Office Professional Seminar April 25, noon-4:50 p.m.

**Student Union Technology — mput your people skills to the test in Office of the Future by 2005 by Shawn Carlson**

This presentation illustrates what the Office of the Future will look like, how work will be conducted in this environment, and how employers and employees can begin planning now for their success.

**Managing Your Anger — Transforming Destructive Emotions into Productive Energy by Maxine Bowers**

Learn how to recognize what triggers your anger and how to turn a potentially volatile situation into positive action by re-directing negative feelings into constructive behavior. Also master coping skills when confronted with anger in others.

**Who Is in Charge of your Attitude? by Lonny Butcher**

Learn what shapes your attitude and how to make it a key to your success. Learn to have a more positive attitude about work, home and life.

**Morals and Ethics in the Workplace by Angela Albert**

This will highlight critical issues related to moral and ethics in the work place, including what conversations are considered to be appropriate, dos and don'ts and character-building behavior.

**S-T-R-E-T-C-H your Buck by the UCF Credit Union**

Become a smart investor by learning how to choose the best investment and lending opportunities to maximize each of your limited dollars.

The half-day program fee is \$35 for UCF employees and \$45 for non-UCF employees, which includes a luncheon and materials for the five workshops offered.

For information, call Marie Cherjovsky at 407-207-4926.

## UCF walks for healthier babies

The UCF Walk Team is getting ready for the March of Dimes "WalkAmerica," on April 29 at Lake Lily in Maitland. Registration is at 7 a.m. and the event starts at 8 a.m. Each UCF Team member must raise a minimum of \$25 for the March of Dimes. Each team member will receive the Official UCF Walk Team T-shirt, food ticket and qualifies for UCF Team prizes. For information, call 317-7725.

"Toys in the Attic" by Lillian Hellman. 823-1500.

5 p.m. 823-2212

**Music:** Percussion Ensemble Concert, Visual Arts Building Auditorium, 4-11 p.m. 823-5973.

**Music:** Melissa Kraut, cello; Gary Wolf, piano, Rehearsal Hall, \$7.50, 8 p.m. 823-5973

**Theatre (through May 7):**

7

**Conference:** Society for the Study of Southern Literature, "The South in the New Millennium," Holiday Inn Select, 8 a.m.-

"Love's Labour's Lost," Orlando UCF-Shakespeare Festival. 893-4600.

8

**Arena:** Dance Marathon for Children's Miracle Network, noon.

**Conference:** Society for the Study of Southern Literature, "The South in the New Millennium," Holiday Inn Select, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Music:** Central Florida Saxophone Festival, Visual Arts Building Auditorium, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 823-5261

**Sports:** Baseball vs. Stetson, 4 p.m. 823-1000

**WUCF-FM 89.9:** "Pelleas et Melisande," Debussy, 1:30 p.m.

9

**Music:** Eladio Scharron, guitar, Rehearsal Hall, 3 p.m. 823-5973

**Sports:** Baseball vs. Stetson, 2 p.m. 823-1000

11

**Blood Drive:** Student Union, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Music:** UCF Chorus Spring Concert, Visual Arts Building, free, 8 p.m. 823-5973

12

**Blood Drive:** Student Union, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Music:** UCF Early Music Ensemble, Rehearsal Hall, free, 8 p.m. 823-5973

**Etc:** Clothesline Project, Student Union, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 823-2425

**Etc:** Taking Back the Night, Student Union, 7 p.m. 823-2425

For a more complete calendar, check out the universitywide listing on the Web site for events at <http://www.ucf.edu>.

# April

# CLASSIFIED

## For Sale

**Girls bike, 24", \$15, fiberglass; canoe w/paddle, \$300. Susie, 823-5985.**

**Home, Palm Valley, 3 miles north of UCF. 55+ community, swimming pool, clubhouse, 2 bd., 2 ba., 1,144 sq. ft., move in condition. Smoke free, pet free. \$32,000. 407-366-0314.**

**Home, manufactured, beautiful 3/2 on 1/4 acre landscaped lot with wooded backyard in Tusawilla Trails, Winter Springs. Located in the five-star rated school district of Tusawilla. Lots of trees and privacy. Great place for family or singles. Huge pool at Clubhouse with plenty of amenities. Asking \$47,000. Call Robin at 407-327-7636.**

**Home, Oviedo: 3 bd., 2 ba., 1500 sq. ft., newly landscaped, vaulted ceilings, river rocked screened porch, fenced backyard, two car garage, central AC, fireplace, washer and dryer hook-ups. Appliances, window treatments, ceiling fans and garage door opener included. \$108,000. Call 407-977-2733 for more information or to schedule a walk-through.**

**Honda Civic EX, 1998, 4-door, 5-speed, excellent condition, low miles (25,600) and loaded with extras. Power everything, new Alpine stereo CD, sunroof, tinted windows, AC, all service done at Honda dealer, one owner. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$15,895. Call 407-381-9493.**

**Mercedes Benz 190E, 1993, champagne gold, power everything. Sunroof, CD player, tinted windows. 82K miles. \$14,000 obo. Call 407-249-9529.**

**Washing machine, white Westinghouse, heavy duty, 3-speed. Separate wash/rinse temperature settings; spin cycle needs adjustment. \$60 obo. 823-5344.**

## Wanted

**New home for sweet kitty (Mattie) found abandoned. Spayed/decl./litter trained. Needs love and attention. Must go to animal lover. Serious long-term inquires only. Dee, 823-6506 or evenings 407-677-4391.**

**Classified ads can be faxed to 823-3403, mailed or delivered to University Marketing, Administration Building, room 338 or e-mailed to: [jgriggs@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:jgriggs@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu). They must be received by deadline on the bottom of page 1.**