The fire safety system on a new Russian submarine, SAFETY SYSTEM TURNS people and sent 21 to the hospital.

Switzerland and France on Wednesday entered the house Thursday with a handgun and a rifle.

Around Campus A2

Sudoku

UCF Basketball

Weather A2

Around Campus A2

Court.

JILLIAN BROTON

Homecoming king and queen chosen at game

The dilemma was initially thought to be a problem with the installation of bricks when the building was built, and another Student Union employee said that the issue was thought to be a problem with a cement job from 2 years ago.

Lea Anne Crittenden

Students should be aware that the bricks are made of steel that act as estudios for the bricks. The steel angles also help support the weight of the bricks. Material is a material made of cement, water and fly ash groutwork used to fill the gaps between blocks and hold them together.

SARAH ROGERS/

CAITLIN BUSH/

Lack of support weakened Union

Central Florida Future

The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1965

www.CentralFloridaFuture.com

Monday, November 12, 2008

An art culture

Professor Congdon talks about the value of folkart to all cultures — SEE NEWS, A2

Looking for that perfect gift this year? The Student Newspaper's 8-page section, tbe Central Florida Future, is the place to find it.

2008 UCF HOMECOMING

JILLIAN BROTON

Homecoming king and queen chosen at game

At the Homecoming football game Saturday, Michael Mollo and Samantha Gil were crowned Homecoming king and queen. Gil was selected to sponsor homecoming court, and Mollo represented them with Theta Pi. Both of them were shocked when their names were called and acknowledged that the win could have gone to any of the 10 individuals on Homecoming Court.

"That whole week, you have people come up to you and tell you they voted for you and people are really excited," Gil said. "You think they're going to kill you and that anything can happen. I was really looking forward to this."

All of the individuals in Homecoming Court had to be interviewed and selected by the Executive Board. It was a tight competition, considering that all 10 candidates were very qualified to claim the win, according to the Board. "I felt like everyone was so qualified," Gil said. "Every one has such great personalities.

Homecoming king and queen were presented with homecoming regalia and then the couple led the UCF Band, cheerleaders and all of the Homecoming Court into the stadium. They were then introduced to the crowd.

SGA will expand shuttle program

Students who live off-campus are excited to use the shuttle service now available to the public.

"It’s going to be a trial run," SGA Director of Campus Life Andy Green said. "We’re really looking for good student turnout to make sure we can keep this going for the following semesters. The buses will be running 6:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. and there will be two buses allocated to the routes — two stops at Jefferson Lofts and one stop at Jefferson Village.

Green said this shuttle would leave the new stops every 25 minutes, and it would take about 20 minutes to travel the entire route.

Students should be aware if they use this new program and use it efficiently. They should have about 20 minutes before their class starts, Green said.

Breaking news on your cell

Get UCF news sent to your cell phone. Just text the keyword 44636.

ABROAD CAMPUS A2

GET INFORMATION ON SPENDING YOUR SUMMER ABROAD

Around Campus A2

POLICE SAY WOMAN HELPED STOP ARMED MAN IN SON'S HOME

Police in Alafaya say an 18-year-old man helped his son stop an armed man who reportedly entered the teen’s home, Thursday. The teen allegedly helped his son stop the man and the intruder fled.

View & more...
Folk art inspires art and community

JENNA NEW

A framed woven and flat sculpture cut out of the side of an oil barrel hung on the wall. In front of the door and on the wall to the left of the door was the door to the left of the door and on the wall to the left of the door, and there were small, colorful, carved-out wooden shapes and figures from China that sit atop the shelves in the left of the door. This is only a small fraction of Kristin Congdon’s collection. Congdon, a professor of film and philosophy at UCF, has a passion for art.

Congdon said that while growing up she did a great deal of travelling. Her father was in the Navy, so she used to travel to school. In the middle of the year and moving frequently. She made friends quickly, she said, because she had to.

“I think that really helped me to terms of an interest in exploring, in trying to know other people,” Congdon said.

It is this interest in knowledge and in people that Congdon said had led her to a love of art, particularly folk art.

Congdon became interested in being an educator, she said, when she was a philosophy major. Congdon’s father was from a variety of background organizations in Chicago during the Civil Rights movement. Congdon said she was involved in the minority community and because of that she became deeply involved in the community as well.

Congdon went back to school to get her master’s degree in art and a teaching certificate. She then began teaching in inner-city schools.

Police eventually talked the man into leaving, and he left peacefully. No one was injured.

Police did not know why the man had gone inside the house Thursday afternoon. Congdon’s neighbor entered the house Thursday evening. The police were still investigating.

“You don’t want to be one of those people,” Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes said. “It seems like this that made her interested in..." Congdon said she felt that there was something she could contribute.

"The art is the culture," Congdon said. "The culture is..." Congdon said that she had taught her students how to express themselves in the same way.

Congdon went back to school to get her master’s degree in art and a teaching certificate. She then began teaching in inner-city schools.

“...you your place in the world and Congdon..." Congdon said that she had taught her students how to express themselves in the same way. She taught them African art.

Rodriguez Milanes met Congdon in 2000 and has been trying to team teach at UCF in the same class, said Congdon does a good job in trying to involve everyone in the artistic discussions.

For example, Congdon brought a small wooden house from Haiti into her class and explained how the man who made it spent all day and how it is cut out of the side of an empty oil barrel. The man was homeless, with no family and no friends, but his art kept coming.

"The art is the culture," Congdon said. "It seems like this..." Congdon said that she had taught her students how to express themselves in the same way. She taught them African art.

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Counseling Center talks long-distance relationships

TARA MARTIN
Contributing Writer

An estimated 1.4 million college students are in long-distance relationships, according to The Center for the Study of Long Distance Relationships.

"The number one reason people come to our counseling center is to deal with relationship problems," psychologists Andrew Blair said to students Thursday. Blair has been with The UCF Counseling Center for six years.

Long-distance relationships, also known as LDRs, are part of the Counseling Center's Self Discovery Knights, which is a service focuses on student development and self-improvement issues.

"Seventeen students — 44 percent of women — attended the seminar on LDRs held in the Student Union," Blair said.

"During the seminar, a lot about women's involvement in their relationship," Blair said.

Blair said that LDRs exist when people are in different cities, states, countries or solely through the internet.

He also said that the main reason for LDRs are students attending different colleges, someone is in the military or a couple is separated because of careers.

Blair also discussed LDR myths, which include the relationships never work, they are not real relationships, and are too expensive.

LDRs can be hard if a person needs constant reassurance, in the relationships who are not close, and is too stressful on a partner to be a mental minder.

"Be clear and specific about expectations of each other. Demonstrate relationship commitment through actions, not just words. Keep contact through email, phone, text. Stay involved in activities outside the relationship like joining organizations, volunteering and making friends.

Avoid blaming others for distance or relationship choices. Make mutual decisions as much as possible (travels, travel, etc.)." Blair also said relationship creativity, like meeting for adventurous halfway vacation, can also help with LDRs.

Mariana Zuniga, sophomore, liked the emotional impact the discussion had.

"It was very helpful because it gave us the opportunity to talk," Zuniga said.

Freshman Lindsay Beard said, she "liked that [the discussion] was small scale because people opened up." Zuniga also said that opening up and making one another smile was the key to success.

"Acknowledging that breaking up can be hard to do, Blair ended with tips to use for when LDRs may no longer work: don't avoid the relationship, don't be rude or thoughtless, avoid breaking up on holidays or during major events in someone's life, and avoid doing impersonal break-ups through email, text orDumping services."
Protective awning said to be too costly

Shuttles take 16,000 to campus every day

Higher Education

What's in the news at colleges around the country

Colorado college faculty wants money from vending machines

Boulder, Colo. - University of Colorado faculty want more money from campus vending machines to be invested in the scholarship fund for their dependents.

Faculty members say the university's scholarship fund for dependents is not keeping pace with similar programs nationwide, and they would like the $750 available for their dependents to be increased.

"It's frustrating to know that the school has invested in the scholarship program for their dependents one semester every year to be about $47,526, not including any other costs that may arise," said Andrew Dugan, an 18-year-old freshman nearly died from acute respiratory distress syndrome caused by Freon.

"The school's transportation department said the awareness of the dangers of Freon is important but they do not have the extra money to invest in the safety of students."
Event highlighted by local musicians’ performances

Thousands of students flocked the Reflecting Pond on Friday outside of Millican Hall for the Spirit Splash of Homecoming 2008.

**FACULTY SPECIALIST AT THE PHYSICAL PLANT**

"I just think there’s a really good group of committed people who are working to make this a really nice event for everyone."

Winners to be best Knights

"I'm just going to try to be the biggest Knight I can," Mollo said. "I mean, I love the people this year that people are working to make this a really nice event for everyone.

"I think that as Homecoming queen it’s your responsibility to be the ultimate UCF student. Trying to do that is really fun, but now I’m going to step away from that and focus on the leadership positions on campus."

"I’m just going to try to be the biggest Knight I can," Mollo said. "I mean, I love the people this year that people are working to make this a really nice event for everyone.

"I think that as Homecoming queen it’s your responsibility to be the ultimate UCF student. Trying to do that is really fun, but now I’m going to step away from that and focus on the leadership positions on campus."
Homecoming 2008 was marked by a plethora of on-campus events and activities. Some events, like Festival of Knights, had lots of students dressing up (top) and had the Shimmy Knights (opposite page, bottom) up a storm. On Thursday night, Panic! at the Disco (second from the top) and Dashboard Confessional (second from bottom), along with The Cab and the Plain White T’s, performed at the UCF Arena. Penny Wars (above) was a weeklong event in which teams collected pennies - and only pennies - for Children’s Miracle Network. “It was all for the kids, and it was a lot of fun,” said Xavier Gonzalez, the Delta Tau Delta Homecoming chair.

Awards Banquet honors...

A celebratory mood filled the Student Union Pegasus Ballroom on Sunday as Homecoming event staff celebrated a successful week with their annual Awards Banquet. Invitations for the Banquet were given to groups who won or placed during the Homecoming competitions. The 2008 Homecoming king, Michael Mollo and queen, Samantha Gil, were also presented to those in attendance. “I would like to give a special thanks to all the students that came out to the Homecoming events ... because they have a lot of school pride,” said Mollo, a member of Beta Theta Pi and a biology major. “That’s the kind of students that I like to see, that’s what makes me proud to be a UCF Knight.”

Throughout the Banquet, an LCD projector displayed images of the week’s festivities while students engaged in mirthful conversations. The afternoon kicked off with a meal as Kristyn Cerni encouraged attendees to help themselves to the buffet, which lined the room’s back wall. Students heartily ate and enjoyed the Banquet fare while eagerly anticipating the impending award presentation. The trophies stood high on stage, looking like cellphone reception bars, “largest to smallest.”

The award ceremony commenced around 2:30 p.m. Kristyn Cerni, the Homecoming Judges and Awards Director, opened the ceremony by giving her appreciation to the students for their efforts. “I wanted to thank all the student organizations for all of their hard work this week,” said Cerni, a junior nursing major. “I know you’ve been working on this really hard since August.”

Because of the multitude of trophies, the award presenters exercised brevity as they went through the largest section. As the presenters moved through the numerous trophies, John Legier, the Homecoming volunteer director, used the ceremony’s midway point to give a short speech thanking and congratulating the student staff who put on Homecoming Week. Following the speech, the winners of the Overall Points Award were announced. There were two separate divisions who would vie for the prize. Groups containing more than 100 members were classified as a large group while those containing fewer than 100 members were considered a small group. Throughout the week the teams earned points through participating and submitting the various events.

At the week’s end the point total reflected those with the largest point total were awarded the most prestigious honors. Campus Crusade for Christ received the award for the small group section and was thrilled with the honor. “We do everything because that’s the only way that you have a chance at winning the overall points award,” said Carissa Van...
Knightro pumped up the crowd before stepping the reflecting pool at the annual Spirit Splash event Friday. The event drew thousands of UF students.

Dalen, Campus Crusade's Homecoming representative, "It was a surprise to me because I did not think that we would win. I was in shock ... it's amazing; I never expected us to do that well." For Campus Crusade, the group also won the Spirit Cup and Spirit Knight. The LEAD Scholars won the Overall Point award for the large group division, and Pi Omegas Sigma Nu won the Spirit Cup for large organizations.

After the Banquet's conclusion, the Homecoming event staff was thrilled with the week and the Banquet's success.

"I think that the week turned out amazing," Cerni said. "I think that everybody did a great job ... I think that the [Awards Banquet] is a great way to reward the [teams] because everyone likes to have something to show off." The students also expressed their appreciation and their appreciation of the week's success.

"This is probably one of the best Homecomings that I've been a part of, and it's my fourth year, so that says a lot," Van Dalen said. "I thought the Executive Board did a great job with it and we really enjoyed it this year."
The breakdown

Offense stagnant again in Homecoming loss

PADERNO BRIEFS
In his fifth week of the college football season last year, the UCF Knights went on to their fourth consecutive victory on a road to a Conference USA title.

This year, the Knights spent the season losing four consecutive games and ending losing season with no chance at another conference title.

UCF lost 57-30 overall, 1-4 in the season, a loss that eliminated the Southern Miss Golden Eagles for the first time, but they are not afraid to fall down a place.

A record-setting loss for the Knights as they take on the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles for the first time.

A record-setting loss for the Knights as they take on the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles for the first time.

Defeated the Gold team 89-83.

The 7-foot-4-inch giant, had a couple of steals on defense.

Taylor appeared to be in a rhythm with his shot, almost every shot he took, drained his mid-range shots.

Drained his mid-range shots.

The 7-foot-4-inch giant, dominated the UK offense in route to a Conference USA title.

In the 11th week of the college football season, the Knights were the last home team at the start of the first time, but the Knights were the last home team at the start of the first time.

The Knights have the worse offense in the country.

UCF wide receiver Brian Sosa Fernandez, had a couple of steals on defense, and suffered from cramps early in the game.

UCF put up 208 yards of offense, but it hardly mattered.

UCF was almost out of plays in the game.

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UCF was almost out of plays in the game.
No points for UCF after first drive

Players left to play for 'pride'

...let, so much so that he has pointed more times than other kickers. "But as we've seen, last season was a very winning season.

The Knights prepared for the weekend with one goal: To beat the Golden Eagles. "It's no surprise that the offense did what it usually does in the second half: Not punt times were remaining.

As usual, it was offense as usual for the UCF offense. But it was as usual as the UCF offense can be. As usual as the bad as the UCF offense....

Rushing nowhere: And as usual, the UCF offense was nowhere near the level of the Southern Miss defense...
Barack to the Future?
That shirt says nothing about the issues.

Central Florida Future
The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

Barack to the Future?
That shirt says nothing about the issues.

The convenience of being American

This past election is one that will resonate through the history of America. Barack Obama has now taken the country by storm, becoming the first African American to hold the highest office of the land. The path to victory was not easy, however, as both candidates faced numerous challenges along the way.

As America looks to the future, our new president faces numerous issues that need to be addressed. From the economy to foreign policy, the challenges are vast. However, with the right approach, we can move forward and create a better tomorrow.

Republics need major rehab

The Republican Party has been under fire for quite some time. With their record of failure on issues such as healthcare, the party's reputation has taken a hit. However, with the upcoming election cycle, it is time for the Republicans to get their act together.

First and foremost, the party needs to address their image problem. They have been tagged as the party of the wealthy, and this perception needs to be changed. Republicans need to reach out to a broader base of voters and show that they are concerned about the everyday issues that affect the average American.

Another area where the Republicans need to improve is their stances on social issues. With the constantly changing landscape of society, it is crucial for the party to adapt and change with the times. This means being open to new ideas and not sticking to outdated beliefs.

Finally, the Republicans need to work on their message. They need to clearly articulate their platform and make the case for why voters should choose them. With the current political climate, it is more important than ever for the Republican Party to make a strong case for their policies.

By addressing these issues, the Republican Party can begin to rebuild its image and positions itself for success in the years to come. It is time for them to start taking their future seriously and delivering a message that speaks to the American people.
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*Carrier text messaging rates apply.
### FULL 2008-09 SCHEDULE

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*Conference USA Games – Home-Games (Bold) Played at the UCF Arena*
BRIAN MURPHY

The UCF Men's Basketball team enters the 2008-09 season with high hopes for another strong campaign, but with many uncer-
tainties in the team. The Knights lost Anthony Williams and Justin Rose after the 2005 season. Heading into 2006-07;
they were picked seventh, and finished second.

Josh Peppers and Lavell Payne left after that season, and the Knights were picked sixth in the preseason. They fin-
ished fourth.

So now, UCF faces its most uncer-
tain year in recent memory. Gone are
the likes of Mike O'Donnell, Dave
Noel and Stanley Billings. Replacing
them will be eight freshmen -
seven of them being true freshmen.

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Noel and Stanley Billings. Replacing
them will be eight freshmen -
seven of them being true freshmen.

And following that trend,
the Knights have been pre-
dicted to finish in the
lower half of Confer-
cence USA again.

"I always want to prove people
wrong," senior
forward Kenrick Zondervan said. "Pre-
season pollsters think that we're not a
good team, that we're not going to make
it far, and we've made it far
every year by working hard."

"(Preseason
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— JERRE SHERRIFF
(UCF Associate
Director of Media Relations)

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good team, that we're not going to make
it far, and we've made it far
every year by working hard."

No. 1 in the game program and on the court
if the Knights want to prove anyone
wrong this season, they will have to
continue to get huge
contributions from every-
one. Not surprisingly for the
Knights, they start with a good
foundation in one of the best
scorers in the nation, senior
forward Kenrick Zondervan.

Taylor pounced in 446 points last
season, a Division I record for UCF.
His average of 20.8 points per game
was good enough to rank sixth in Con-
fERENCE USA last season and 23rd in the
nation, two spots ahead of the third
overall pick in this year's NBA
draft, O.J.

Much is expected from Taylor by the
league he plays in as the Tavares native
was selected to the All Conference USA presea-
son team. But now as the Knights' dear
leader, more is expected of Taylor than
just what shows up on
the
stat sheet.

He's trying to become more of a
vocal
force with his teammates, something
that Taylor admitted he wasn't
really good at.

"I try to lead by example, but I
am trying to get more into being a
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Zondervan, Yotio, Davis key in frontcourt

Senior forward Kenrick Zondervan may not provide a lot of points in the paint against many other senior on the team. However, he is known for his work for the team. That means he has to be vocal.

Sophomore Taylor Young becomes the Knights’ most experienced point guard. “He’s got versatility.”

Sophomore forward Jean Michael Yotio will be used by inserting his whole UCF career, Most recently he’s been able to get as better.

Junior forward Tony Davis brings a lot of athleticism and a great rebounding skills for his 6-foot-7-inch frame. He was UCF’s leading scorer among the team. That means he could see a lot of time trying to get a better.

Yotio; Davis, and Chip Cartwright, both 6-foot-9 to 7-foot-4, and have a long wingspan that will add to his stature. He has started for the Knights for three seasons, making the most of his time.

But now, Zondervan said that he stands tall with his loud stature.

Junior guard P.J. Gaynor has been a vocal leader for the team. Zondervan’s statis­

The final non-freshman is guard Kirk Speraw. He is now in his fourth year as a guard. Youth is a long time to learn a good deal about the team, but that they shouldn’t be forgotten about this season.  "People may think that’s we’re young, but we’re not going to be pitiful. We’re going to do our best and we can come out strong in the regular season, but also said that it could take a couple of months for it to be right.

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AN D Y JACOBSOHN / C E NTRAL FL O R IDA FUTU R E

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The offense will run through Hinnant and James Legan, a senior and serviceable 3-point shooter who played in all 30 games last season. But ECU's McKiver, who left Houston as the 13th-leading scorer in school history, despite playing just two seasons for the Cougars.

For the Thundering Herd, it's Markel Humphrey and Tiran Humphrey, who combined to average 12 rebounds per game last season, head coach Donnie Jones first with the team.

Along with Humphrey and Bacon, the Herd will have one of Florida transfer Brandon Powell and Georgetown transfer Octavius Spann, both of whom sat out last season.

With an improved offense and one of the better defenses in the conference, the Herd should impress on their 200 mark in league play and make an extended appearance in the C-USA Championship at the end of the season.

Memphis lost its three best players from last season to the NBA Draft, but if there was any team equipped to handle such a loss, it would be Memphis.

Super freshmen Derrick Rose is gone, but Tyreke Evans is there to fill his place. Brann, a top-ranked recruit, will pair with Antwuan Alendar, who gives the Tigers a freakishly athletic backcourt.

Jackie-o-trades Robert Dool, who averaged 52 points, six rebounds and almost two blocked per game — is back for his senior year in the spotlight.

With an improved offense and one of the better defenses in the conference, the Herd will try to extend their winning streak within C-USA past its current mark of 33.

While other teams are looking for freshmen or transfers to make impacts as newcomers, the Owls have a more important freshman.

Rice is dealing with a new coach, Ben Braun, who was fired from the same position at California in May after 12 seasons and is 223-244 record with the Golden Bears.

The Owls will have an uphill climb. They lost their leading scorer, Patrick Britton, and leading rebounder, Patrick Pachvicius, to graduation. They'll add depth for freshman or transfers to make impacts as newcomers, the Owls have a more important freshman.

The Mustangs will need Fall to increase their production this year now that they are without double-digit scorers Derrick,
played in 118 SMU's offense runs through the middle, and Alex Malone is the only player returning from last year's team to hit more than 31 percent of his 3-pointers.

The defense struggled in 2007-08, allowing opponents to hit 37 percent of their 3-pointers, but the Mustangs are hoping that another year of experience for sophomore guards Ryan Harp and Mike Walker will limit the effectiveness of opponents' guard play.

Southern Miss will return four starters from last season as well as its top seven scorers. The Golden Eagles had the third-best shooting percentage in C-USA last season, and their most efficient scorers are back. Jeremy Wise, who averaged 18.7 points per game, will lead the offense and could be deadly if he can improve his 3-point shot.

The loss of 7-footer Gjio Bain, who graduated, will hurt them and leave a hole in the paint, and the Golden Eagles will have to look to 6-foot-10-inch Andre Jack ~ son and 7-foot-1-inch Gustavo Lino - both of whom are freshmen - to pick up the slack.

The departure David Gomez will hurt the Green Wave, but the return of Kevin Sims, who averaged 12.2 points per game as a sophomore last season, will offset that loss.

Sims will be called on to direct an offense that struggled to score at times in 2007-08. Although most of their frontcourt options are in the 6-foot-7-inch range, Robinson Louisme will team with senior Daniel Puckett or freshman Jon Anderson to give the Green Wave one of the more athletic frontcourts in the conference.

Larryn is a beast around the basket - he converted 69 percent of his shots last season - and he will be called on to keep Tulane in the game with his offense and defense.

With Joey Dorsey gone from the college ranks, Tulsa's Jerome Jordan becomes the most dominant post player in C-USA. He set a conference record with 143 blocks last season and is back for more. While Jordan will man the post, Ben Uzoh will continue to shoot the lights out - he shot 48.8 percent from the field last season. The loss of Brett McDade will hurt them everywhere, but the Golden Hurricane return the most important cogs from last season's second-best conference defense.

The Golden Hurricane don't have much in the way of experience to complement their star duo, but Ray Reese will ease some of the scoring load, and Sam Mitchell can come in and bang with the best of them.

The Blazers lost two of their top three rebounders from last season, but they have Robert Vaden back.

Vaden, who was third in the conference in scoring in 2008-09, was arrested in October for public intoxication, but the school has yet to decide any disciplinary action.

Lawrence Kissi and Chaz Perry are also back to give the Blazers' backcourt that averaged 43.7 points a game.

Paul DeAngelo III has bounced back from a knee injury and should provide added depth.

The Blazers' roster is bereft of size, but their plan regularly
The point man in many ways for UCF

BRIAN MURPHY
November 10, 2008 • Central Florida Future

Some people are just naturally talented. Musicians, writers and athletes. Practice and many hours of hard work help sharpen their skills, but they just have that extra advantage with their given ability.

UCF Men’s Basketball player Jermaine Taylor is one of those people.

Born in Kinston, North Carolina, on December 8, 1986, Taylor said he was always talking before he was walking. "I was just talking and I was like, 'Dang, they actually get paid to do this,'" Taylor said.

"Basketball was Taylor’s love, but it wasn’t the only sport he played. To go with the hoops, he also played on the football and track and field teams at Okeechobee High School. Like any good kid obsessed with scoring, the first AAU game began his fascination with scoring.

"I just feel like no one could stop me at times. I just try to get to the bucket every chance I get." — Jermaine Taylor, 2008 UCF Men’s Basketball Player of the Year

For fans, becoming a new career path for Taylor. He got offers from head coach Ron Zook at the University of Florida and Jim Larranaga at the University of South Florida to come play basketball and football.

"If anyone knows that, they would also know that Taylor’s natural athleticism isn’t a surprise. Taylor’s mom is 6-foot-5, his dad is 6-foot-8, and they each played basketball. He has an aunt who was also a basketball star, and his cousin was a heavy influence on him in his decision to come to UCF.

"I remember coming to my first game at UCF and I don’t remember how much I had, but I just remember him scor­ ing," Taylor said. "And I was just like, ‘That’s how I want to be.’"

"I got older. I was just looking for fun," Taylor said.

"Even compared to my high school days, he’s still the same,” said Kenrick Zonder­ van, his UCF assistant coach. "I’ve made him a little more disciplined, but he’s still that kid who loves to have fun."

The NBA may await Taylor, but right now in his last chance to reach the NCAA tournament, and those thoughts with him this summer — the hardest summer he has ever spent working on his game. "It would be a big disappoint­ment to finish up my year here at UCF without that," he said. "That’s why I’ve been working hard all summer, try­ ing to lead us over there so we can start the journey together."
UFC FRESHMAN FEATURE

Young guns: New crop led by Rompza, Sosa

BY RYAN BASS

At School and 6-foot-9 pounds, Ajay Rompza, the Freshman point guard from Chicago was the smallest player on UCF's roster in both height and weight.

But there is something highly interesting about the Whitman Young High School grad who came to UCF from the same school that produced New York Knicks player Quentin Richardson and future first lady of the United States Michelle Obama.

It's not necessarily something he can use to boost his height or weight, but it makes him unique just as tall and as skinny as any of his teammates or opponents. It's something Rompza inherited from his parents, both of whom played in college, and there is only one way to describe it.

It kind of fits the way Rompza said of the way he carries himself on the court. "We kind of have you go on about things and how you make people look at you. That's why you do it, you just have been going hard, and people can kind of tell that you have a swagger and confidence, really."

Whatever you call it, swagger is just one more quality that can't be taught or learned in the books. It's what UCF had in the 2008-09 freshman class.

In addition to Rompza, Isaac Sosa brings his experience from playing for his home country of Puerto Rico in the 2008 FIBA Americas U18 Championship, Dave Weathers played on the same level at Grandview Prep high in Boca Raton last year.

And Jakub Kusmieruk, the 6-foot-4-inch center from Poland, the knight spent three years at high school in the Chicago area before he helped lead the home country of Puerto Rico in the 2008 FIBA Americas Championship.

Diakite played on the same level of AAU the taller and more physical guard Isaac Sosa, and there is a lot of minutes for the Knights this season. The best 3-point shooters on the team in August, is the Future first shooter who has a lot of minutes for the Knights.

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The real big man on campus

Kuba, son of enjoys spending time with other young collegiate student. He gorgeous, but he is just like any Kuba isn't playing basketball. The Knights enter the 2008-09 season as Kuba to men's basketball team. Meanwhile, now UCF asso­ciated as the tallest to provided the perfect opportuni­ty to go to the United States. His approach, his desire and his work ethic are as good as what we've had here.

His approach, his desire and his work ethic are as good as what we've had here.

The Knights hope Kusmieruk, nicknamed "Kuba," can soon be an inside force with his size. Growing up, he was always taller than everyone, which should come as a surprise. He liked being active, and he and his father often talked about how he could use his size to his advantage in playing sports. The floor was his hand at basketball, but that didn't last. Once he started playing basketball, which they thought provided the perfect opportuni­ty for him.

Meanwhile, now UCF associate head coach, Mike Judulski, was in Poland about five years ago talking with other basketball coaches about bringing players over to the United States. Two years after his first trip, they introduced him to Kuba. They said he was the right player for the team.

Kuba had started playing basketball before his eighth­ year of high school and was very interested in the game. He decided to take on the challenge and made the difficult decision to leave his family to pursue his basketball career in the United States. He wanted to be coached by someone who would teach him the skills he needs to succeed at the highest level.

"Knowing the coaches at UCF can make the transition into college basketball a much easier one," Kuba said. "All my coaching experiences have been a very good place for me. Being in Florida, with a beautiful camp­us, and a new arena that's why I chose UCF."