Friends remember UCF student Amanda Largent, left, for her caring ways.

Amanda Largent: Always in Our Hearts

By LINDSAY MALANGA
News Editor

Amanda Largent’s friends say she was energetic and enthusiastic about life. They talk about the way she loved coffee and lived to help others.

At 22, Largent was an example of a person enjoying the prime of her life. A student and fraternity member at UCF, she touched the lives of many. Unfortunately, Largent’s time was cut short, and she died of a severe asthma attack that led to a fatal cardiac arrest in the middle of April.

Largent was a member of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. All who knew her said she was full of energy and always willing to listen. “She was willing to do anything for anybody,” Fraternity President Matt Cross said. “She spent a lot of time helping me see different sides to things, and she always knew how to present a different angle to a situation.”

Largent served as fellowship vice president, membership vice president, and treasurer. She was also planning to become a resident assistant for the fall semester. Planning to graduate next year, Largent had goals to become a social worker.

Cross uses three words to describe Largent: caring, insightful, and energetic.

“She was a very good friend and the chapter lost one of its best assets,” Cross said. Only two days before she died, Largent had been awarded the fraternity’s highest honor, the Semester Chapter Service Award.

Rob Brissone, one of Largent’s little brothers, said Largent was “always there. If there was anything you needed, she’d do it.”

A memorial service was held on April 27 in the Arboretum by the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity. There, A Phi O made history as the first chapter to perform the memorial service described in its handbook. Several people spoke about Largent and shared memories of her.

“It was sad, but there were some nice light-hearted moments,” Cross said.

Jamie Kupinski was Largent’s roommate and also a brother.

“Amanda was one of the most energetic people that I’ve ever known,” she said. “She had an impact on everyone she came into contact with. She always took time to look at a situation from a different perspective and tried to make things better whenever she could.

“She was a great friend and brother, and I will really miss her.”

The Largent family requested that in lieu of flowers, money be donated to the fraternity of Alpha Phi Omega so a scholarship fund can be set up or a community donation could be made in Amanda’s name.

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Perhaps the best way to re capture the spirit of Amanda and let everyone know exactly who she was can be best described in a poem written by one of her little brothers, Christina Osorn.

A Special Kind of Person

What kind of person affects the world in such a special way? What kind of person tells the world all that she has to say? What kind of person stops to sit down and listen? What kind of person cares enough to help or be a friend? What kind of person is always willing to lend a helping hand? What kind of person loves all life, nature and the land? The kind of person that is and always will be in our hearts, Amanda Largent.

Tuition increase remains controversial

By ELLEN DASYSPRING
Staff Writer

Students are in for a surprise when they receive their fall fee invoice this year. The Florida Legislature passed a tuition increase which will go into effect for the ’97-’98 year.

This will be the second rise in tuition in two years. Last year, Florida’s public universities raised tuition by 7 percent due to cutbacks in the education portion of the state budget.

Originally the universities received 13 percent of the budget, but in the last decade, the share has been changed to 7 percent.

Some say a tuition increase is the only answer to fill the holes which have been created by the cutbacks. The creation of the Florida Lottery was supposed to help make up for the loss money but instead has been used for replacement in other areas of budget reductions.

The extra money brought in by last year’s increase was used in areas including financial aid and computer technology.

The increase for the upcoming year will be 7.8 percent of the matriculation fee for undergraduate, in-state students and 12 percent of the matriculation fee for graduate and out-of-state students.

“I feel that tuition if pretty high right now. I think it’s unfair that the increase is higher for out-of-state students then it will be for in-state ones,” said junior Meghan Borer, an out-of-state student.

The additional money this year’s increase will raise, according to Dean McFall, Director of Public Relations for UCF, is divided among three areas: 45 percent will increase financial aid, 10 percent will be used for technological improvements and 45 percent will be used for internal improvements.

A committee compiled of the student body president, a senior, a junior, a graduate student and several administrators decides on the remaining 45 percent of the money for internal use will go.

The committee will meet later this month to make suggestions on how the money should be utilized based on needed improvements to the university. These suggestions are then sent to President Hitt who has the final word on what the committee recommends.

“This money will benefit the students directly,” McFall said, who added the increase is around $100 per undergraduate, in-state student a year.

“If the money is going to be used to make UCF a better school and help improve the quality of my education, then I think the increase is a good and necessary thing,” said junior Mindy Herschler, an in-state student.

Chinese delegation visits campus

Delegation of Chinese scholars had a chance to meet and talk with some of the Chinese students attending UCF last Friday. These scholars were part of the provincial museums that have provided the treasures being displayed in the Imperial Tombs of China Exhibit. Above, Ms. Chen Shu Jie C of the Chinese Foreign Affairs Office (State Bureau of Cultural Heritage) introduces Dr. Elliot Yates, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, to the visiting scholars.
Man wields firearm in Osceola dormitory

By LINDSAY MALANGA
News Editor

James Darrell Ronland, 23, was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, aggravated assault, and possession of a firearm on April 29, according to a UCF Police Department report.

After accompanying a friend to Osceola Hall, Ronland began arguing in the dorm room with other people. Ronland then pulled out the firearm and raised it, moving the gun back and forth and pointed it at one of the persons in the dorm. Another person grabbed the gun and pushed Ronland outside of the dorm room.

Cpl. Hugh Carpenter and Officer John Pellerin contacted Ronland and found him armed with a switch blade knife. After identifying Ronland, police discovered he already was a convicted felon and took him into custody.

In other news reported by the UCF Police Department:

• Brian Johnson reported criminal mischief on April 28. Johnson said he witnessed a man letting the air out of his tires and later discovered obscenities keyed on the vehicle. Johnson is willing to prosecute.
• Wilfred Rodriguez reported assault and battery on April 28. Rodriguez said approximately 10 unknown persons approached him and punched him in the stomach. Rodriguez was repeatedly threatened and grabbed against his will. When police arrived, all of the suspects had fled the scene. Rodriguez is willing to prosecute.

UCF Police

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An employee, reported grand theft and criminal mischief on April 29. Billingsley had fled the scene.

Billingsley was found skate-boarding inside the student services building at approximately 10 p.m. When police asked him for his identification, he attempted to conceal his identity. Billingsley was then taken to the UCFPD and read his rights.

Shannon Roberts, UCF Housing Department employee, reported grand theft and criminal mischief on April 28. Roberts said some unknown person(s) removed the front portion of Seminole Hall's building sign. The estimated repair/replacement of the sign is $1,100.

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Central Florida Future • 3

A: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Q:

1.) No, it's just the same amount of information to learn in a shorter period of time.
2.) No, this system allows for more flexibility over the summer.
   — Amy Baker, Senior, Elementary Ed

1.) I wouldn’t say they are harder, it’s up to the student to recognize the condensed format and govern themselves accordingly.
2.) I think the options for classes over the summer terms, as far as length is concerned, are very good. It allows quite a variety for Summer plans.
   — Mike Hess, Graduate Student, Taxation

1.) No, It makes people work harder since there are more classes to attend. There's no such thing as an idle mind in the summer.
2.) No.
   — Nalini Suparamaniam, Communication

1.) Yes, but its OK when you don’t take a full load of classes.
2.) I'll drink to that!!!
   — Andrew Schachter, Senior, Organizational Communication

1.) No, but I have to study everyday, just to keep up in these classes. I think that if you do study, its not all that hard to take summer term classes. But, if you do fall behind in these classes, it can quickly become disastrous for you.
2.) Yes, if it was possible. But now I'm satisfied with taking Summer courses during the A, B, C and D terms. Because I only have to concentrate on one class during each of these terms.
   — Yukie Yanai, Senior, Hospitality Management

1.) Do you feel classes offered during the Summer are much harder because of the shortened term length?
2.) Would you prefer three terms (Fall, Spring, and Summer) of the same length?

1.) Yes, because of the time constraints and the amount of information that has to be processed in a shortened length of time.
2.) No, because even if you go during the summer, you will still need time off to relax.
   — Juan J. Salvatelej, Junior, Management Information Systems

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Mercury

Some kids get all the breaks. and fight over who gets college education grow up. girls and two boys born March 24, might have to share rooms, the shower first as they who might someday be members of the class of 2019. The children were born in the university's hospital, about 50 miles away from their parents' home in Brooklyn. They were born here," said Vicki Kett, a Stony Brook spokesperson. "We consider them our kids." The scholarships, worth $81,000 each, were announced by Stony Brook president Shirley Strum Kenny, a mother of five children who once had four in college at the same time. "Of course, the kids will have to study hard and meet the school's entry requirements," Kenny said. The sextuplets' parents,occo and Beverly Boniello, said they were delighted with Stony Brook's offer. "Now I don't have to get that third or fourth job," said Rocco Boniello, a technician for the NYNEX telephone company. Beverly Boniello is a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. The children — Olivia, Sabrina, Sophia, Stella, Tifton and Gerard — remain in the hospital but are doing well, their father said. They also received six tiny T-shirts that say "Lil Seawolves" in honor of the university's nickname.

Rhode Island football players sentenced

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Five former University of Rhode Island football players were sentenced to community service April 2 for their role in an attack on a fraternity last fall. The men — freshman Vincent Valerio, senior Cy Butler, juniors Camelius Cruz and Frank Romano and sophomore Willie Edwards — also were banned from college sports for a year. In all, 31 players were involved in the incident at Theta Delta Chi last October. As most of the players remained outside, 15 stormed inside, beat three fraternity members and damaged the house, police said. The fraternity said the players acted in retaliation because one of them had been thrown out of a party there. The three fraternity members who were beaten were treated at an area hospital for minor injuries and released.

District Court Judge Gilbert Induglia ordered the five men to pay the medical bills of the three victims, and to stay away from them and Theta Delta Chi. The former players could have been sentenced to one year in jail. "These are not bad people, but they did a bad thing," Induglia said. The university permanently kicked all five players off the URI team. Of the five, only Valerio remains enrolled at URI. After the attack, URI president Robert L. Caruthers cancelled the team's next game against the University of Connecticut, saying "what occurred [at Theta Delta Chi] were sins both of commission and omission, by people who committed acts of violence and people who stood by and watched those acts and did nothing."

Hollywood Films Teach Psych

PHILADELPHIA — While students in film courses routinely examine plot, dialogue and camera angles in movies, a Temple University class is watching Billy Crystal in "City Slickers," to learn more about what a mid-life crisis is. They're also watching Winona Ryder address young adulthood and Harvey Fonda struggle with old age. Marsha Weinraub, the instructor of the Temple psychology class, says she believes these actors serve as the perfect guest instructors to demonstrate to students the stages of adult development.

By watching characters in such movies as "Reality Bites," "City Slickers" and "On Golden Pond," students can examine how characters change as they age and grow. Take Mitch, Crystal's character in "City Slickers," a comedy in which three pals in mid-life decide to join a cattle drive. Mitch has a good job, a loving wife, nice house, cute kids and loyal friends. He has, Weinraub tells her class, fulfilled the three criteria for defining adulthood: economic independence, readiness to marry and raise children and decisiveness about his career. But Mitch is having a mid-life crisis. "His crisis is that his life is boring," Weinraub says. "There are no risks."
"Grosse Pointe Blank"

What's a hit man to do when his 10-year high school reunion comes up? Attend or not attend is the dilemma. How can a pro killer who enjoys knocking off his subjects avoid such morbid talk with old friends at an all-'80s retro dance? In "Grosse Pointe Blank" Martin Blank (John Cusack) is at a moral crossroads, and the poor guy is only 28 years old, a suave and calculated murderer who's been in the business for several years with his loyal, wacky secretary Marcella (played amusingly by John's sister, Joan). A rap session with Dr. Oatman (Alan Arkin) allows Martin to emotionally get in gear. Oatman encourages his bewildered patient to go back home to Grover Pointe. Mich., and forge romantic ties with old flame Debi (Minnie Driver), whom he abandoned on prom night. Debi is now Pointe's most famous DJ on the airwaves, spinning vinyl (the soundtrack has an exuberant mix of '80s techno and pop) to commemorate the weekend festivities.

But Blank has other problems once he arrives at his old playground. His house has been converted to an IBtimart. His mental home. His nemesis, Gary Oldman as the evil profiler (out of four) B+

"The Fifth Element"

Luc Besson ("Le Femme Nikita"); "The Professional") tries for the definitive '90s space epic but falls miserably with this transparent effort, a collage of weird special effects, stupid violence, and some truly bad performances (especially Gary Oldman as the evil Zorg). The fine British actor, who probably came back to work for Besson (Oldman played the dirty white-boy killer in "The Professional") as a show of friendship, overacts in a strange accent, ridiculously-looking hair and costumes. This is not a testament to Oldman's talents. The guy needs to return to his early roots, in films he was once spectacular ("State of Grace", "Sid and Nancy", "IFC.")

The story in "Element" is not much of one. Bruce Willis is a cab driver 300 years or so in the future. Brooklyn has become a mad-cap arena of colorful skyscrapers, police cars, Chinese take-outs, and laboratories. Besson's impressive art direction is the film's one and only saving grace. When we're in the city, flying with Willis as he escapes from a horde of police cruisers who are after the droid in his backseat (Milla Jovovich, playing a droid made to save the world), "Element" feels inspired by cinema's classic German expressionism. For a more exciting parodies Scorsese's "Casino" in which Joe Pesci eliminates a boxer with a most unsuspecting instrument. Directed by George Armitage ("Mummy Blues") "Grosse Pointe Blank" is an unconventional, potent piece of comedy. Injected with afresh script (John Cusack debuts as a co-writer), the film boasts Cusack's best work in quite some time. He's smashingly good, incredibly by his own admission, too bad to love, yet too good to hate. The supporting cast is also exceptional, delivering a belly load of laughs while keeping in check the dark (and offbeat) elements of the story. Arkin's psychologist balances this combination well, and Jeremy Piven (TV's "Ellen") plays funny notes with his character, a real estate pro who's gone big. "Blank" fires nothing but real rounds. Keep laughing, and you won't get hit.

** * (out of four) B+ 1 hr. 45 min. Rated R.

Minnie Driver, left, stars as Debi, who is reunited with her old beau Martin (John Cusack) 10 years after he stood her up on prom night in 'Grosse Pointe Blank.'

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Central Florida Future

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

ON THE SCREEN

"Grosse Pointe Blank"

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New business and administration dean named

A CFF Staff Report

Dr. Thomas L. Keon will be the new dean of the College of Business and Administration and will begin his duties on Aug. 1. Keon is from Southern Illinois University, where he served as dean of the business school. His experience as a sitting dean at SIU, community involvement, and familiarity with higher education in Florida schools distinguished him from other candidates.

Keon said he looks at coming to UCF as "a very enriching opportunity for me, both because the school is growing and because of the tremendous business growth in the area."

An associate dean of the College of Business at Florida Atlantic University from 1990-94, Keon also worked as an administrative post at the Business School of the University of Missouri. After receiving his PhD from Michigan State, Keon went on to teach at the University of Missouri and the University of Notre Dame. Other benefits Keon will bring to the school are experiences with having professional articles published, being actively involved in fundraising, aided in the reversal of a five-year drop in enrollment, and acting as a business manager for several corporations.

Keon has a wife, Peggy Dwyer, and one son Colin, 4.

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Baseball team headed to TAAC tournament

By KEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Golden Knights’ baseball team advanced to the double-elimination TAAC tournament by defeating Jacksonville (Ala.) in a best-of-three play-in over the weekend.

But UCF faces a challenge to the conference title, which it has won three of the past four years. The two-time defending champs must do it as the No. 6 seed in the six-team tournament, which starts today at Stetson’s Conrad Park in Deland. UCF plays top-seeded Mercer University at 3 p.m.

“No problem,” Coach Jay Bergman said. “They can’t be that tough.”

UCF downed JSU 15-5 on Friday night. After losing 13-12 on Saturday afternoon, UCF won the deciding game that night, 16-5.

Todd Bellhorn won Saturday’s clincher, striking out eight in 7.1 innings. This followed the afternoon game in which UCF followed a familiar lead this season: blowing a late lead, as the Knights saw an 11-8 seventh-inning lead evaporate.

“We pitched well and we hit really well this weekend,” Bergman said, referring to UCF’s 50 hits in three games.

Outfielder Gregg Pacitti led the way, batting .500 (7-for-14) in the series with a double, triple, two home runs, seven runs scored and 10 RBIs.

“I saw the ball real well all weekend,” Pacitti said. “We all knew that we had to step up all of our games or this would be it.”

“Some guys — good athletes — respond to tournament play,” Bergman said. “Gregg did.”

Other contributors include Eric Rigg, who batted .625 (10-16), doubled in each game and scored seven runs; Eric Johnson with 7 RBIs and Bryan Bruce and Todd Bellhorn with six RBIs each.

The winner of the conference championship receives an automatic berth into the NCAA Regional Tournament. Other teams can make the field if they receive an at-large bid, as Stetson did last year. If the Knights do not repeat as TAAC champs, the NCAA selection committee may overlook UCF’s low conference seeding and focus on its tough road schedule.

Bergman looked forward to the tournament.

“We’ve beaten a team [JSU] that, on paper, we shouldn’t have,” — Coach Jay Bergman

UCF’s visit to NCAAs brief but rewarding

By TONY MEJIA
Staff Writer

Gail Falkenberg’s plan is to have UCF regarded among the nation’s elite tennis programs. The women’s first appearance among top-ranked squads, however, was forgettable, although not without value.

Following a one-month layoff after the TAAC tournament, UCF encountered an overpowering Michigan squad, and was swept out of the Regional Championships, 5-0, at Vanderbilt University. The Knights finish their most successful season in school history at 22-2, gaining a bitter-sweet moment in the national spotlight. Falkenberg said UCF’s top three players, Maria Widyardharma, Rachna Asgar and Hadas Ronen, played very well in losing efforts.

Ronen was the only UCF player to win a set in a match that was suspended against Michigan’s Tumika Harris. Ronen and Harris split the first two sets, 4-6, 6-2, before their match was suspended in the third set when the Wolverines clinched the team victory on another court.

There were a couple of reasons we didn’t play very well, with the most overwhelming being the length of the season. It was tough to get back into sync, especially against such a tough opponent,” said Falkenberg.

“Secondly, the court conditions were very fast, which created a problem for all Florida sails who aren’t used to playing on that type of surface. Michigan was ready for those conditions, and that’s why they claimed the upper hand.”

Falkenberg now looks toward recruiting and hopes to provide depth with three new players.

Another key will be the availability of Ronen, who has to report to the Israeli army later this year. Falkenberg said it was inconclusive if she would return. The situation is not the first time the team has dealt with adversity.

“The resiliency these girls has shown is fantastic. We had an injuries returning senior out the whole year, while Anna Strandh has played injured for most of the year, even hoping to miss the regionals,” Falkenberg said.

“The team stuck together and played through it all, offsetting the fact that we didn’t have much depth.”

Falkenberg now has time to take a step back and look at what she has been able to create in her six-year tenure at UCF.

“Considering where the program has come in six years it’s really remarkable, that this program has attained this level, but I think the best is yet to come, and I would expect to be at Michigan’s level next season. The way to improve is to continue to have something to strive for.”

Women’s tennis ends season of 1sts

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Sports Editor

Starting at the Trans-Atlantic Conference championship trophy on her desk, women’s tennis coach Gail Falkenberg smiles. And why not? Her team had the best season in school history with six underclassmen and seven nationals to manage.

“I like how well we interfaced with each other,” Falkenberg said of her team coming together for a school-best 22-2 season. “They just got together great and supported each other.”

Looking even with such teams as South Florida and Tulane, both of whom made the NCAA tournament, UCF proved a model of teamwork, producing this season’s firsts:

• Their first national ranking (as high as No. 45).
• The first victory against a nationally ranked team (No. 74 Oklahoma and No. 52 Tulane).
• A school record 16-game winning streak.
• The first invitation to an NCAA tournament regional (lost to eventual Southeast Region champ Michigan in the first round.)

Although UCF was swept by Michigan, Falkenberg feels the team can play with the better teams as soon as next year.

“The team has a lot of confidence after playing Michigan,” said Falkenberg, who played all underclassmen in the match after senior Anna Strandh stayed in Orlando with an injury. “The players felt with a little more experience and a few more players that we can play with them.”

With more experience, the Knights could be scary. TAAC player of the year Veronica Widyardharma highlights six of seven top-seeded players returning from this year’s team which went undefeated in conference.

The one regret Falkenberg has from the past year was scheduling. With the TAAC tournament ending in early April, the Knights had a month off before their match against Michigan.

“You could really see the difference in the closer matches,” Falkenberg said. “We weren’t as sharp as we should have been. Luckily the TAAC tournament is being moved back a week, so it won’t be as much of a problem next year.”

As for next season’s schedule, which includes matches with State and South Florida, Falkenberg said she will try to schedule more games on the road. She added UCF has established itself as an NCAA tournament team, games will be easier to set up and more funding should be available.

“There’s nothing but positives coming out of this season,” Falkenberg said. “We kind of put Central Florida on the map for tennis.”

Senior Anna Strandh sat out UCF’s first NCAA appearance with an injury.