UCF’s hidden ‘secret garden’

By LINDSAY J. MALANGA
News Editor

In the midst of UCF’s hustle and bustle, there is a serene place of lush greenery and tranquility on the east side of campus — the arboretum.

“arboriculture is a love affair with the land,” said Dr. Henry Whittier, who, along with several other science professors, established the arboretum in 1983.

“Many people in the arboretum to take a walk, eat lunch or to escape the hustle and bustle,” said Whittier.

In addition to biology classes, Whittier says art and English classes come to the arboretum for inspiration.

At last count, the arboretum listed 603 plants, but Whittier said new species are still often discovered there. Among its vegetation are tulip trees, beech trees, water hyacinth, and Brazilian Pepper trees. Nine natural communities are represented in UCF’s arboretum, including the cypress dome, oak hammock and cabbage palms.

A waterfall and several ponds moisten the environment and provide for peaceful background sound. “I go there at least a few times a week,” said Lisa Jamison, a UCF junior. “It is nice to just get away and enjoy the peacefulness. The surroundings are so beautiful.”

The nature trails offer peace and tranquility on campus.

Looking for a handout

Photo by PETER KUNDIS

UCF laser research excels on campus

By GINA HAWKINS
Staff Writer

UCF engineering student Ed Miesak said he realized he was spending a lot of time at school when he began to feel more at home in the research laboratory than in his living room.

Miesak, who is about a year away from graduating with a Ph.D. in optics and lasers, said he spends about 11 hours a day in the lab, seven days a week, studying lasers. He said he used to spend more time there, beginning his research at 6 a.m. and leaving at midnight.

Miesak is working on his dissertation — the final project for his Ph.D. — at the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers, CREOL, located across from the UCF engineering building. He said 175 students pursuing graduate programs in optical and laser science and engineering.

M.J. Soileau, director of CREOL, said long hours and intense research are characteristics of study at the graduate level. He said typically there is one faculty member for every two or three students at CREOL, and they work closely with their students throughout the research.

“An ideal education is one in which you unfortuntely can’t do on a massive level at the undergraduate stage, but at the Ph.D. level or graduate stage. That’s how you must do it," Soileau said.

Soileau said the typical CREOL faculty member also works more than 60 hours a week. He said professors have to be “out there pounding the pavement” to seek out the grants and contracts necessary to fund the research and pay for the specialized equipment and supplies that may be necessary.

UCF basketball will tour Europe in the late summer.

UCF leader steps up

UCF student humanitarian is honored for outstanding community service.

— Page 3

On the screen

“Con Air” makes crash landing in local theatres.

— Page 8

Knights tour de France

UCF basketball will tour Europe in the late summer.
Altered money passed on campus

By DAN TUCKER
Staff Writer

A $20 bill that had been altered to look like a $2 bill was issued to Barbara Tsukalas, a cashier at Fast Break in the Education Building. According to a UCF police department report, the bill was given to Tsukalas on May 29 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Conviction of one offense could result in a five-year prison sentence. The investigation is still ongoing.

In other campus crimes reported by the UCFPD:

• Satomi Tonegawa reported her bicycle had been stolen on May 23. Tonegawa’s 18-speed trailer 621. Tonegawa was unable to provide the serial number of her bicycle to the UCFPD.

• A Pepsi machine was vandalized on May 29. The bottom portion of the front of the machine had been kicked in, causing approximately $100 worth of damage. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time.

• A hubcap was stolen from the vehicle of John Nicholson on May 28. Nicholson reported his parking decal had been stolen. Nicholson is unsure when the decal was stolen. He first became aware it was missing when he returned to his vehicle and found a “No Decal” ticket on his windshield.

• On May 29, John Nicholson reported his TV/VCR unit was stolen from the Counseling and Testing Center. The TV/VCR, valued at $442, was last seen in Room 215 on May 29. Barbara Sherwood, who reported the stolen unit, asked staff members if anyone had moved it. No one had. There are no suspects at this time.

• A $20 bill was issued to Barbara Tsukalas, a cashier at Fast Break in the Education Building. According to a UCF police department report, the bill was given to Tsukalas on May 29 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Conviction of such an offense could result in a five-year prison sentence. The investigation is still ongoing.

In other campus crimes reported by the UCFPD:

• Satomi Tonegawa reported her bicycle had been stolen on May 23. Tonegawa’s 18-speed bicycle was locked to the rack in front of Aspect trailer 621. Tonegawa was unable to provide the serial number of her bicycle to the UCFPD.

• A hubcap was stolen from the vehicle of Youries Atallah. Atallah parked in lot G-2 on May 27 and returned 30 minutes later to find the right rear hubcap missing. Atallah has had all four hubcaps stolen previously.

• On May 28, John Nicholson reported his UCF parking decal had been stolen. Nicholson is unsure when the decal was stolen. He first became aware it was missing when he returned to his vehicle and found a “No Decal” ticket on his windshield.

The pertinacious students fought the tuition increase at the Tallahassee rally.
UCF leader honored for outstanding services

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Staff Writer

Building houses, teaching children and working at his family's restaurant finally got Georges Darido what he deserved: an honorable mention for the 1997 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Darido, 21, is one of 28 college students in Florida recognized by Florida Leader magazine. The magazine's annual scholarship program honors students with the following characteristics: how they support themselves through school, superior academic commitment, and volunteerism within their community and campus.

Darido, a senior majoring in civil engineering, exceeded these requirements. He is a recipient of two prestigious scholarships, maintains a 3.8 GPA, and is involved in many organizations on and off campus.

He serves as a UCF's Habitat for Humanity representative on the Greater Orlando Board of Directors. He attends monthly meetings, raises funds for the organization, and was involved in the construction of 60 houses in downtown Orlando.

"I like to affect people's lives and get involved," Darido said.

Darido is also the president of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honors society, the secretary for American Society for Civil Engineers where he participated in the annual conference at the UCF Arena, and serves on the President's Leadership Council, where he along with other students works one-on-one with UCF President John Hitt.

"I'm very honored to be a part of that because they are very talented people," he said. "It's a very diverse, eclectic group."

Darido finished teaching Sunday school at St. Joseph's Catholic Church last month. He taught children in third grade and enjoyed the difference from his complex engineering classes.

"It's completely non-technical," he said. "Engineering is so detail-oriented. When you have to teach a child sometimes you have to get very broad. In engineering you become very narrow-minded sometimes and the kids open up a whole new perspective."

When Darido is not busy with classes, teaching or volunteering, he works at Gino's in Oviedo, his family's Italian restaurant.

"It keeps my feet on the ground," he said. "I work with my parents and it's a nice thing to do."

How does Darido find the time to do all of this?

"It's a battle, it's tough to juggle all these things," he said. "If I'm not busy, I don't feel productive. I'm just that kind of person — I gravitate to these things that interest me."

Georges Darido earned an honorable mention for the 1997 Florida College Student of the Year award.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the May 28, 1997 article "Garages, UCF Arena keys to future parking."

Excerpt:

"What bothers both UF and UCF parking administrators is students unwillingness to walk from parking lots not conveniently located next to their classes."

Response:

You know, it's blatant administrative stupidity like this that totally infuriates me about this school. Students are required to pay $50.00 for a yearly pass here at "Nickel and Dime You To Death University." Are we supposed to pay this fee and then be willing to walk a half mile to class? You're damn right that I am unwilling to pay $59.00 a year for parking just to walk from parking lots not conveniently located next to my class," regardless of the weather, with a 30-pound book bag, from the dirt lot I park my new car in!

So, this is what I have to say to the UCF parking administrators, I formally invite you to be more than happy to walk half a mile to your cushy office from the dirt lot carrying a 40-pound briefcase and somehow find some valid reasoning for your plan to raise parking fees in the fall. Then, and only then will I truly be willing to accept yet another disappointment at this glorious university and smile as I walk to class from the wonderful dirt lot!

Sincerely,
Andrew Schachter
A Severely Disgruntled Student Advocate

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1.) Have you ever been the victim of some type of campus crime?
2.) Do you feel that SEPS (Student Escort Patrol Service) is a very good program? Why or why not?

1.) No.
2.) Yes, it provides an alternative for putting oneself in a very compromising situation.

— Abigail Schroeder, Sophomore, English, Orlando

1.) No.
2.) Yes. A safe escort to the student's car helps to eliminate very vulnerable situations.

— Britt Owen, Senior, Business Management, Stuart,

1.) No, never.
2.) Yes. It's nice to have this service available, so that I don't have to walk home alone if it's dark outside.

— Aura Rodas, Junior, Psychology, Kissimmee

1.) No, luckily.
2.) Yes. I do feel that if there is a legitimate concern about safety, measures such as the SEPS, should be employed.

— Richard Lazzart, Graduate, MSEE, Longwood

1.) No.
2.) Yes. Sometimes I have classes that run from morning until late at night. Whenever I have trouble finding a parking space, I end up parking far away, and then have to walk back to my car through dark areas. If someone would escort me during situations like this I would feel much safer.

— Taeko Ozawa, Senior, Accounting, Hitachi, Japan

"MY PART-TIME JOB AT UPS IS REALLY WORKING OUT."

"UPS is paying me almost $10,000 a year to get in the best shape of my life. See, I work part-time sorting packages, about four hours a day. After sitting in class all day, it feels good to get some exercise. It's like doing a couple of hours in a gym—except you get paid to work out.

"That's not the only advantage of working at UPS. There are other benefits—like choosing your own work schedule and getting paid holidays and vacations. Jobs open up in Accounting, Industrial Engineering, IS, and Customer Service. But if you're looking to shape up while adding weight to your wallet—try Operations.

"If the whole student body worked at UPS, everybody would be in better shape—physically and financially."

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In need of a cure for UCF's summertime blues

By JASON HEIRONIMUS

Opinion Editor

As we embark on our perspective summer adventures it is only fair to take some time to acknowledge those few brave souls who have decided to take classes at UCF during these hot summer months.

While some students are planning exciting trips or preparing for challenging internships, others are braving the shabby waters of the limited summer curriculum UCF has to offer. In an environment closing in on 30,000 it seems as if the summer course selection has not caught up with the demands of a growing student body. The selection of courses is limited at best, thus causing some students to resign to courses such as underwater body weaving, or was that class filled already?

I was warned in advance of the difficulty in acquiring the classes needed to fulfill my summer requirements, however I was quite naïve in my attempts to find a class that would take me, let alone one that fit my major. When at last I resigned to the comfort of my advisor he gave me no sign we could ever get in a class. His best advice was to beg and plead with the professor of the class which I so dearly wanted to take. What a UCF student must learn in seeking summer credit is that dignity is a luxury we cannot afford.

It is required of every student to acquire nine hours of credit during the summer months in order to graduate. However, how is the average student to get these nine magical hours when it seems as if the school only offers nine hours to the whole student body? It seems a bit ridiculous to ask this of every student when the course offerings are so incredibly small. Which brings me to my next point — why is campus sooo dead during the summer?

Because of the lax summer course schedule many students are forced to take their summer hours at other universities instead of at UCF. This causes campus life to dramatically decrease, thus resulting in a very somber mood about campus. It is only natural for campus activity to slow somewhat during the summer months. just as at any school across the nation, but at UCF it seems as if the campus is hosting a convention for agoraphobics. Where is everybody?

The only people on campus are those unfortunate souls who must go to and from class on a regular basis and then leave campus altogether, yours truly being one of them. If there was something to do, perhaps students would be more apt to hang around and liven up the environment a little bit. Hopefully with the opening of the new Student Union there will be a little more activity next summer than there is now.

The question remains, however, why is there so little to offer during the summer? Now you might want to say during the summer no self-respecting student would want to do anything on campus, for there are so many creative things to do outside the gates of UCF. But isn't it up to the administration to compete somewhat with the more attractive facets of the city of Orlando? Obviously the city has a lot to offer, there is no argument there. But would it not be more safe and perhaps be better for the school if it were to activate some of those summer funds to liven up campus a bit? I am sure money could be used for something the students could benefit from.

Is my vision of a happy summer student body a pipe dream? In all likelihood, yes. However, if they can't offer us more classes for our money, at least they could offer more to do.

The recruitment of incoming freshmen is an absolute must for any growing university such as ours. Every summer perspective students visit campus and take notice of the emptiness which seems to envelop our campus during this term. As I have mentioned before, any summer campus is not going to be as spritely as it is during the fall or spring terms, however, our increasingly empty and sad campus cannot be too impressive for incoming freshmen and their parents. Unfortunately, when selecting a college you will be spending the next four years of your life at, image is everything. You believe what you see. When all you see are hung-over students walking to and from class, and no other activity, what would you expect a visiting family to think? UCF does not have the advantage of other major state universities which have campuses that are pretty much alive all year round, partially because of location but also because, well, there is stuff to do!

Those of us unfortunate enough to be stuck taking classes during the summer should rise up! We are spending money, a lot of money, to take summer classes. Surely our money could be used to raise the spirits of campus life just for a few months. Is my vision of a happier summer student body a pipe dream? In all likelihood, yes. But somebody a student won't have to beg and plead for their classes, and maybe, just maybe, they won't leave campus between classes.

Everyone must have a dream, and I have mine.
Lost student emerges out of Africa after six-day search

Jessica simply lost sight of her group.

By Mary Lundquist, when asked to explain how her daughter was separated from her group.

Northland College students on an annual college-sponsored trip to Africa when she disappeared on May 13 from her group. Jessica's mother, Mary Lundquist, says her daughter told her that visibility was difficult from Northland, became separated from her group. Jessica's "She's been asked that a dozen times," said Lundquist, when asked to explain how her daughter was separated from her class on safari. "It's just the type of thing no one, I don't think." Elephants and water buffalo roam that area, but not lions or poisonous snakes. Despite the temperature of around 40 degrees, Lundquist was found in good condition, reporting only minor blisters and scratches. She had not dehydrated, and was found with rain gear, first-aid supplies, warm clothing and a half of a sandwich.

Don Albrecht, a Northland College spokesman, says the college is currently preparing an internal report to determine what happened and how to prevent similar incidents in the future.

While Albrecht's college has sponsored trips to Africa, this is the first time someone turned up missing, Albrecht said, the college will not ban overseas trips.

Mary Lundquist says her daughter, who is planning to attend graduate school, also has not given up on overseas travel.

Stand-up comic suspected in series of campus rapes

LOS ANGELES—A comedian who traveled the college circuit is suspected in a series of Midwest campus rapes.

Vinso Horace Champ, 35, has been charged with two rapes and is a suspect in four other crimes at Midwestern colleges.

Champ is also charged with trying to rape a student at Pasadena City College in California.

Starting in February, one Midwestern college after another reported alarmingly similar cases of a woman being raped or almost raped in a campus computer lab or music room.

Police began searching for a common thread—and discovered an unusual suspect. The dates of each assault—six in all—corresponded to the stand-up comic's campus stops across the Midwest.

Authorities first arrested Champ at his Hollywood apartment in May and charged him with attempted rape in the California attack. Police widened their investigation when they discovered his college circuit comedy stops put him in the area of all six Midwestern colleges where rapes occurred.

The victim in one of the cases, University of Nebraska-Omaha instructor Heidi Hess, told the Associated Press that it was "sickly ironic" that a comedian was a suspect.

"It's that time when I'm supposed to be funny and make people laugh, and this wasn't funny," said Hess, 30, who was raped March 5 in a computer lab and decided to speak publicly about the attack.

Champ has denied involvement in the attacks and declared himself "100 percent innocent," according to reports. He is being held at an Omaha jail on a $1 million-dollar bond in connection with the Hess assault.

The other colleges that confirmed sexual assaults of female students or faculty members include: Augustana College, in Rock Island, Ill.; Carthage College, in Kenosha, Wis.; Knox College, in Galesburg, Ill.; and St. Ambrose University, in Davenport, Iowa; and Union College, in Lincoln, Neb.

Parents celebrate last tuition check

WESTMINSTER, Md.—It's official: parents can still embarrass you, no matter how old you are.

Tom and Elaine Long were so excited when they sent their final tuition check for their daughter Emily, a recent Western Maryland University graduate, that they attached a long wish list with their payment.

"This is it and what it means: The last one! Red meat on the table again! A night out! A new dress! New shoes! Now we can see the movie when it actually opens! Palm, sun, surf, and sand!" the note read. "Trade in the VW for a Caddie! Color, yes, color TV!" And so on and so on. In all, the Longs listed 25 items they could now spend their money on.

They also stuffed confetti into the envelope to celebrate the last payment. Tom Long, a supervisor for the Maryland 529 Plan, said the Longs also held a party after Western Maryland's May 24 ceremony. They took the bumper sticker off the family car ("My daughter and my money go to WMU") and had a ceremonial burning.

With no more tuition to pay, the couple plans to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with an August trip to Aruba. But as it turns out, Emily, an art major who spent the summer working with the Carroll County Arts Council, hopes to start a graduate program in museum studies this fall.

And that could mean more macaroni-and-cheese dinners for the Longs.

Students over 30 gaining numbers on campus

By COLLEEN DE BAISE

College Press Service

More and more of today's college students are going gray. Just ask Karen Webster.

"I have tons of gray hair," admitted Webster, who studies journalism at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, N.Y., "but it's all in the back where no one can see it."

Sure, like other college students, Webster stresses about final exams, tuition bills and term papers—but that's not why her head is sprinkled with gray. It's just the type of thing that happens at the age of 46.

The image of the typical college student as an 18-year-old dorm-dweller who brings his laundry home to Mom and Dad is changing. Now many of today's college students are not yet ready to leave the nest,

"I don't think there's anything wrong with it," she said. "Some students are just not ready to live on their own."

But it's the type of thing that happens at the age of 46.

The image of the typical college student as an 18-year-old dorm-dweller who brings his laundry home to Mom and Dad is changing. Now many of today's college students are not yet ready to leave the nest.

Mom and Dad.

Nationally, one in four college students is age 30 or older, according to figures released in May by the U.S. Census Bureau. The enrollment of older students has been steadily on the rise since the 1970s, when the bureau first decided to keep track of older students (30 and over) in addition to traditional students.

Rosalind Bruno, a census demographer, said that who compiled the figures, says updating job skills is only one reason why the older crowd is enrolling in college in greater numbers.

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By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

‘Con Air’ barely gets off runway

Flying solo for the first time after the death of longtime collaborator Don Simpson, high-glam producer Jerry Bruckheimer puts yet another testosterone actioner in theaters with ‘Con Air’, a dumb, often exaggerated thriller that swings in at low altitude for much of its flight time. Oscar-winner Nicolas Cage (“Leaving Las Vegas”), in hippie locks and an Elvis accent, plays newly paroled Cameron Poe, an ex-Army Ranger who’s just completed an 8-year transit plane en route to freedom, so he hog-locks and an Elvis accent, plays newly paroled Cameron Poe, an ex-Army Ranger who’s just completed an 8-year transit plane en route to freedom, so he will be able to reunite with his wife and daughter. Along for the ride is a smorgasbord of iconics: They’re all being transported to various high-maximum security prisons. John Malkovich, mocking the brilliant evil of his assassin from “In The Line of Fire” (1993), is over the top as Cyrus the Virus. Ving Rhames (“Pulp Fiction”) is racist killer Diamond Dog. Indie king Steve Buscemi, still in his wormy and snaky physique, is quiet as a Hannibal Lecter-like madman perverted to the extreme. On Cage’s side is a tough female guard (Rachel Ticotin) and a diabetic prisoner (Mykelit Williamsson). Not so much on Cage’s end of the rope, but stragglers somewhere in the middle, are John Cusack, as a U.S. Marshal, and DEA agent Colin Meaney.

Scott Rosenberg (“Beautiful Girls”) injects pyrotechnics as if it was a charac­ter of its own. Bruckheimer seems to have lost something more than a friend and professional ally in Simpson. He seems to have lost his nerve. For memorable, glossy action pics from the pair, go see some of their earlier productions like “Crimson Tide” and the original “Clerks” and “Clerks Cop”. For all means please, jump “Con Air”. For us legs, there’s better ways to earn our wings.

*(out of four)*

New on video is “Breaking the Waves” (Evergreen, 158 min. R) New on video is “Breaking the Waves”, one of last year’s best and most powerful films. A Danish import directed by Lars von Trier, the film features an Oscar-nominated performance by Emily Watson as Bess, a naive woman from a remote Scottish coastal village. She’s in love with an oil rig worker named Jan (Stellan Skarsgard). The two soon marry in the town’s small, Calvinist church. Jan, however, must leave and head back to the sea. Unable to handle his departure, receives support from sister-in-law Dodo (a very good Katrin Cartlidge). Daily conver­sations with God allow Bess to pray for Jan’s anticipated home­coming. When a freak accident on the rig brings him home, she has to come to terms with her husband’s paralysis. Pumped on medicine, he tells Bess to find other lovers and relate to him her sexual experiences. All this will hopefully aid in his recovery.

von Trier tells “Breaking the Waves” in seven chapters and an epilogue, each accompanied by a rock song from the likes of Elton John, Leonard Cohen, Deep Purple and others. Each image is superbly rendered, especially the grainy texture of Robby Muller’s photography. Both overwhelm­bing and emotionally profound, “Breaking the Waves” won a slew of awards including the Grand Jury Prize at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival. Even on video, on a much smaller screen, von Trier’s epic transcends most American love narratives and compels us to examine such issues as spirituality, devotion, and sex.

Other new releases: “Murvin’s Room”, “Beavis and Butthead Do America”, and “The People vs. Larry Flynt”.

Florida Film Festival

Cannes winner and Florida Film Festival ‘break’ summer boredom

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

The 6th Annual event kicks off this Thursday with an opening night party of “The Full Monty”. A party, buffet, and dance is all included in the $50 admission. Oscar-Nominated Actor Willam H. Macy (“Fargo”) will pre­sent his 1991 film “Homicide” and field questions from the audience on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30pm at the Enzian theater • Cinematographer Haskell Wexler (“Days of Heaven”) will also be in attendance when he spotlights John Sayles’ “Matewan” (1987) on Friday, June 20 at 6pm at the Annie Russell theater • Peter Freda, joins “Ulee’s Gold” director Victor Nuñez on Saturday, June 14 at 6:45pm at the Annie Russell theater • Roger Corman, one of the most com­mercially successful movie-makers in Hollywood history, will present his seminal film version of Edgar Allen Poe’s “Masque of the Red Death” (featuring Vincent Price) on Saturday, June 21 in 3:45pm in the Annie Russell theater. Corman will also receive a special Lifetime Achievement Award. Tickets may be purchased by calling 407-626-TKTS. Festival-long passes are also on sale.

Hot fun in the summer sun leads the way to cool nights in the theatre. Here is a mini pre­view of movies due out in the coming weeks.

“My Best Friend’s Wedding” (see photo below), due out on June 20, welcomes Julia Roberts to the altar...or so she hopes. Dermot Mulroney, Cameron Diaz and Rupert Everett co-star for the director of “Muriel’s Wedding”, P.J. Hogan.

“Hercules”, Disney’s newest cartoon extravaganza, carries its weight in theatres come June 20.

Joel Schumacher returns as the “Bat” director in “Batman and Robin” starring George Clooney, Chris O’Donnell, Alicia Silverstone, Uma Thurman and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“Ulee’s Gold” finds Peter Fonda as a bee-keeper con­fronted with family problems. Movie premiere is scheduled for the Florida Film Festival.

Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith battle the “scum of the universe” in this summer’s hip sci-fi flick, “Men in Black”.

Coming Attractions

Florida Film Festival News

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Photo courtesy of OCTOBER FILMS

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Photo courtesy of OCTOBER FILMS

Karin Cartlidge and Emily Watson in a scene from “Breaking The Waves” released on video this week.
Arboretum lends a sense of tranquility to UCF

From PAGE 1

A botanical garden or both, said Whittier. The difference is a botanical garden is a high-maintenance environment and an arboretum is a place for woody growth.

The arboretum receives outside aid in funding and maintenance. "Friends of the Arboretum" is a public support group that helps publish a newsletter about the arboretum. Through this support, the arboretum has a $2,000 account with the university foundation. This money is used to buy food for people who come out and do volunteer work.

An endowment fund of $10,000 also has been designated by a UCF alumni biology major. The funds help the arboretum do other things besides maintain the foliage, said Whittier.

"We used to co-sponsor a plant identification competition with Seminole County Soil Conservation Society," he said.

Still, many students don't know an arboretum exists on campus.

"I had no idea UCF had an arboretum," said Brad Coleman, a UCF sophomore. "I think that is a good idea. Students need a place to go to relieve their stress. I will definitely check it out."

Whittier hopes more people will take advantage of the nearby serenity.

"This arboretum is accessible to everybody on campus," Whittier said. "People need green areas."

Photos by PETER KUNDIS

UCF makes it easy to be green

The arboretum is home to lush and diverse plant life, some of which are native to foreign countries. The serene atmosphere gives students a change of pace from the chaos of college life.

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Education appealing to older ages

From PAGE 6

weekends." Sandy Holtz, 49, and her daughter, Carrie Seela, 29, make the one-hour drive from Grosse Ille, Colo., each weekend to attend class at DU's Women's College, then bunk up as dorm roommates. "They've got a sign on their dorm room that says 'Home Sweet Home,'" Goodland said.

With so many older students enrolled in college programs, it's not unusual for a parent to wind up in the same course with a son or daughter. At Seattle University, 50-year-old Ronnie Spieht recently finished law school this year and plans to go into practice with her two classmates, daughters Shelly, 30, and Tiffany, 25.

At University of Wisconsin-Wisconsin, 45-year-old Peggy Ulbricht recently finished two sociology courses with 17-year-old daughter Allison, an accelerated high school student.

"The college campus is changing," said Walt Ulbricht, Peggy's husband and a UW-Wheeler spokesperson. "It's no longer the isolated place it once was."

To accommodate the needs of older students, many colleges offer special living arrangements or support groups for "non-trad." Christine Duckett, 30, is a past president of the Non-Traditional Student Association at Ferris State University, where roughly 40 percent of the student body is 23 years old or older.

"We all feel it is important that every non-traditional student knows our group exists," said Duckett, a junior in social work and the mother of three children. "We want to greet new students right away when they get here and help them with their transition."

Last spring, Duckett traveled with others to Grosse Ile, Colo., to attend the first national conference for non-traditional students.

"When you're out of the loop for so long, it's easy to forget the frustrations a student can face," she said. "We want to reach out to the non-trads who are coming back to Ferris and help them deal with major concerns like day care and the financial aid process."

At commencement exercises this year, a number of older graduates grabbed headlines.

"It's Harvard University boasted 89-year-old graduate Mary Fastano, to date the oldest person to join its alumni association. Fastano, who earned a bachelor's degree in history, was 71 when she started college studies. At Austin College, 70-year-old Delia De Wald was awarded a bachelor's in psychology. The retired nurse said she returned to school because of a dream she had in 1990. In the dream she was walking through an "awful place" filled with glaring lights and frightening people. Then, she turned a corner, she said.

"In front of me was this beautiful complex of buildings; it was peaceful, the people looked friendly. It was all the difference in the world from the first scene. I went up to someone and asked where I was. 'The future,' he answered. I sat bolt upright; it was like lightning striking me. That started me thinking. I still have a future, she said.

De Wald believes her degree, combined with seven decades worth of life experiences, has prepared her for a job in the psychology field. She hopes to work with an organization such as Hospice.

"Someone was saying that seeing me in classes is an inspiration," she said. "Maybe some older folks would think they couldn't [go back to school], but it can be done. It hasn't been easy, but it's been enjoyable."
Auburn likely opening-day opponent

From PAGE 12

Ed Miesak aligns one of his laboratory's lasers for an experiment in the CREOL building.

The laboratories are temperature controlled within two degrees and have a slightly higher pressure than the hallways to keep out dust. He said the lab tables are precisely flat and some of them can be lifted off the floor so they are not affected by any vibrations in the building.

"When you're conducting a scientific experiment, you try to eliminate as many variables as you can," said Soileau, who is conducting research to find out how materials are damaged by lasers, especially the materials that make up the components of lasers. Lasers break down the materials around them, Soileau said, when they get too powerful. He said if materials can be found that can withstand the laser, the power of the laser can be increased, or it can be made more compact and cheaper.

Soileau said other CREOL faculty and graduate students are working on a way of using computer programs to do imaging inside of human tissue by light rather than by X-rays. This technology could be applied to mammograms, Soileau said. It would enable doctors to spot cancerous tumors without using the X-rays that could cause cancer in the first place.

Miesak said the possibility of real-life applications of research such as this is the ultimate goal in the graduate process. "I could pontificate on paper all day long, but it doesn't mean anything — no one will get anything out of it," Miesak said. "But what would be worth more to more people is if I could turn this around and make something that you could buy."

Miesak said the project he is working on could enable things such as optical fuses to be built. These are essentially switches, similar to the mechanical fuses in a fuse box, that could be used as protection from lasers.

"Suppose you're somewhere in the vicinity of a laser and the laser beam comes along and hits you," Miesak said. "Rather than go blind, what you would do is put an optical fuse in your eye glasses."

These optical fuses would stop the laser from burning your eye, Miesak said, by only letting through the amount of light that the eye can handle.

Miesak said countries are considering using blinding weapons on the battlefield. He said these weapons would actually be more for blinding electronics than for blinding people, but optical fuses in the electronics could stop this from happening.

Aside from working on his dissertation, Miesak also is president of the student chapter of the Optical Society of America and volunteers his time for the Educational Outreach Program. He said the outreach program sends students from CREOL out to lecture on interesting topics to other students.

"We try to get many students to help out because if you want to become a teacher, this would be a valuable experience," Miesak said.

UCF TAAC co-host, Bellhorn drafted

From PAGE 12

Bucky Hodge from Georgia Tech cannot travel.

Athletic Director Steve Sloan said it is a shame the players cannot go.

"It would have helped get them acclimated with the team more easily, but that's the way the NCAA decided it," Sloan said. UCF's first regular-season game could be Nov. 14. A deal is in the works for Auburn University to play a season-opening game the Friday before football homecoming.

"I would like to have the contract signed to make it official, but it would be a good way to start the season with a name opponent on Friday before homecoming," Spears said.

"They've had the contract for a few weeks now, so it's up to them."

Spears also confirmed the 1997-98 schedule will include games against Florida, South Florida and Marquette.

The coming trip and possible schedule has Spears optimistic.

"We've got a lot of guys coming back so at least we know what they can do," he said.

"There's not a lot of questions on this guy and can he do this? We kind of know their skills, what they are able to do and their mental outlook."

From PAGE 12

UCF TAAC co-host, Bellhorn drafted

Support him, Frady said. "If he returns, he will obviously be our team leader. Today it is a mature individual and we are sure he will make the right decision."

Bellhorn is currently in Dallas with Athletes in Action and was unavailable for comment.

Bellhorn, who bats right-handed and throws left-handed, batted .329 with 6 home runs and placed second on the team with 58 RBIs in 1997. As a pitcher, he compiled a 4-4 record in 16 games, including 14 starts and finished second among UCF starters with a 4.13 ERA. In 80 innings he struck out 84 batters, allowed 74 hits and walked 52. Opponents hit .244 against him.

UCF to co-host TAAC baseball tournament

At the TAAC spring meetings, the conference membership awarded the 1998 (May 13-16) and 1999 TAAC Baseball Championships to Osceola County and the Ocala County Stadium and Sports Complex in Kissimmee.

UCF will serve as co-host with Osceola County for the championships, although the school did not bid to become the host. The ownership of the Class A Florida State League Kissimmen Cobras and the Ocala County Stadium and Sports Complex bid for the tournament, but the TAAC named UCF as the co-host due to its proximity.

The Sports Complex is also the spring training home of the Houston Astros.

"It is very exciting to be able to present to the coaches, players and fans our baseball championship in a major-league facility," TAAC Commissioner Bill Bills said.

UCF AD Steve Sloan said 1997 host Stetson University was the only other bidder for the tournament.

The Golden Knights have won four of the past five TAAC baseball tournaments.

Optics studies generate money for university

From PAGE 12

Ed Miesak aligns one of his laboratory's lasers for an experiment in the CREOL building.

Soileau said regular faculty and students work on a variety of research projects in CREOL's 90 laboratories. The labs are temperature controlled within two degrees and have a slightly higher pressure than the hallways to keep out dust. He said the lab tables are precisely flat and some of them can be lifted off the floor so they are not affected by any vibrations in the building.

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Sloan named TAAC President

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Sports Editor

UCF Athletic Director Steve Sloan was named the Trans America Athletic Conference President during the TAAC spring meetings in Deerfield Beach, May 29-31.

The president, subordinate to TAAC commissioner Bill Bibb, is responsible for handling conference duties such as running the tri-yearly meetings during the fall, winter and spring. The position is for two years.

Sloan, who served as vice president previously, said the new position will not infringe on his work as UCF’s AD.

“It’s a normal progression to go from vice president to president,” said Sloan, who added much of his work can be done through conference calls with other ADs.

“Still, it is an honor for the conference to have the confidence in me for the job,” he replaces Mercer AD Bobby Pope, who held the position since 1995.

UCF signee expected to skip pros

UCF signee Matt Bowser of Tarpon Springs told the Golden Knights coaching staff he will not sign with Toronto, meaning he cannot be drafted to skip pros with the Jays proved unsatisfactory.

While posting a cumulative GPA of 3.8, Lubozynski also lead the team in complete games (4), games started (15) and shared the team lead in wins (6) with senior George Schmidt.

Lubozynski credits his parents with giving him the value of academic success and self-discipline.

“My parents have said academics are important in life because my dad and mom are both very smart and have instilled a great work ethic in me,” he said. “The key to my self-discipline is that I know that I have a test (coming up), that I have to study.”

“A lot of the guys will go out that night, where as I will make myself sit down and study. I start to feel the pressure, and I respond well to the pressure, so I make myself study.”

Lubozynski is quick to point out that no matter how much success and self-discipline he has, he still reverts to his old grown-up kid who does his fare share of goofing around.

“I am a procrastinator (though), so that’s one of the amazing things (about my success). I always tell myself that I’m going to start early (on an assignment), but then I put it off. Then I somehow find a way to get it done, and I’ve always been that way in that it always works out for me in the end.”

European trip to ease growing pains

Men’s basketball team will tour France and Italy late this summer

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Sports Editor

A year ago, Coach Kirk Spewaw was signing six freshmen, two junior college players and expecting a pair of transfers. This off-season’s focus will shift from adding players to adding experience.

The UCF men’s basketball team will travel to Europe for two weeks in August to play a half-dozen teams in France and Italy, Spewaw said.

The European trip, combined with 11 of 12 players returning, has given Spewaw hope for a more cohesive team immediately.

“I think the foreign tours bring your team together and gives you the opportunity to test some things out,” Spewaw said.

“It lets you do some things when the games don’t necessarily count, so you can experiment from an Xs and Os standpoint. Plus, everyone gets lots of playing time.”

UCF Coach Kirk Spewaw hopes a trip to Europe seasons the Knights’ younger players for next year.

Not only the experience of playing foreign teams, but the chance to be tourists makes the trip worthwhile, Spewaw said.

“Most of our guys have never been outside of the country,” he said.

“It will be an eye-opening experience for most of the guys, but we will get some good basketball in. There are some very good club teams over in France and Italy.”

Spewaw was an assistant for the 1993-94 University of Florida team that played in Australia the summer before the Gators’ only Final Four appearance. He said he waited until his fifth season at UCF when he had a high return of players from the previous season.

“This is an important year for us,” said Spewaw, who added the NCAA allows only one team basketball tour every four years.

“The trip will be good for Brad Traina, for Tony Marlford and for Davin Granberry, as well as all of our freshmen from last year who need to See AUBURN, Page 11