Hitt talks about presidency, UCF's future

Shelley Wilson
MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. John C. Hitt is the fourth person to serve as the president of the University of Central Florida. He became the president on March 1, 1992. He is originally from Houston, Texas, and received his psychology degree in 1962 from Austin College. He went on to Tulane University to earn both his master's and a doctorate in physiological psychology.

Hitt began teaching at Tulane and then at Texas Christian University. He received the position of Associate Dean at TCU and later was appointed Vice President of the TCU Research Foundation until he became Dean of the graduate school in 1975. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., from 1977 until 1987. He held a similar position at the University of Maine, until he was appointed Interim President in 1991. Here's a look at some of Hitt's thoughts about UCF and being president.

Q. Did you always want to be a University President?

"No. I got my Ph.D. when I was 25, and was focused on finding a good position as a faculty member so I could teach and do research. My interest in a university presidency did not develop until many years later."

Q. You have worked in the education for over 20 years. How have you seen it changed in that time?

"I have been a full-time faculty member and/or administrator in one or another university for 33 years. Many trends have come and gone during that time. Today's undergraduates, and the universities that serve them, are more career-oriented than was the case when I began teaching at Tulane University in the fall of 1966. This is partially explained by the fact that a larger percentage of the population now goes to college than did them. This significant debt burden that many students take on in college is another factor in this change."

Q. What are some of your job responsibilities as being the university president that many students would be surprised to know?

"Most students would likely be surprised by the amount of time a university president must spend on off-campus matters, such as fund-raising, lobbying at all levels of government and being involved in the communities our university serves. I generally work 10 to 12 hours per day, and these responsibilities take 40 to 50 percent of my time."

Q. As UCF enters the next millennium, what are some of your goals to help UCF become a leading University?

"When I became UCF president in March of 1992, I published five goals for UCF:

- To offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida.
- To achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study, and research.
- To provide an international focus to our programs of teaching and research,
- To become more inclusive and diverse, and
- To be America's leading University."

Exchange offers alternative to bookstore

Cameron John
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (U. CALIFORNIA-DAVIS)

Art shines in CREOL building

Elaine LeBlanc
STAFF WRITER

"Salt," an original glass sculpture by contemporary artist Christopher Ries, was donated to UCF's Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers and unveiled during a reception Friday night in the CREOL building. Schott Glass Technologies, a leading manufacturer in fiber optic materials, contributed the nearly-400-pound sculpture. According to M.J. Sileau, UCF Vice President for Research, the sculpture is a symbol of the new partnership between UCF and Schott Technologies. It is also a result of UCF and CREOL's old partnership with Analog Module.

Ries offered his perspective on his piece and the increasing importance of light. "We are actually living in the age of photons, the age of light. This university and the programs here are vital to the future of mankind. Light is the future," he said.

Ries' fascination with glass began in the 1970s when he built a glass facility from a kiln shed at Ohio State University. With Harvey Liston, the sculptor co-founded the American Glass Movement. Ries works as Schott Glass artist-in-residence, and his works are displayed in various museums, including those in Cincinnati, Chicago, and New Orleans. Ries resides in rural Pennsylvania, a place that inspires much of his work. "Nature has been the single most influential thing in my art," Ries said.

The Book Exchange, however, is not without its flaws. "The lines are usually slow - I waited 30 minutes to buy my books," UCD student Nick Maioriello said. "But it's worth it."
Glass artwork gets shattering response

“Sail,” completed in 1988, stands over 49 inches and is the tallest glass sculpture Ries has ever created. According to Schott Glass president Bruce Jennings, the piece has almost a 100 percent high light transmission. Many were amazed by the complexity of the glass. “This is the most stunning thing I have ever seen,” said Senior Viviana Hampers. “If you take just one step in another direction, the dimensions and colors of the piece are radically different. I am so grateful that UCF acquired such a remarkable piece of art.” Jennings is extremely pleased with the work. “Really, this is fulfillment of a dream to have his work as an adornment in this building.”

Virtual U Puts You In Role Of College Administrator

CHICAGO (TMS) — Do you have what it takes to run a university? If you’re sure, consider sharpening your administrative instincts on Virtual U, a soon-to-be-released simulation game modeled after the popular SimCity series.

In Virtual U, the player controls major aspects in the creation of their very own school, such as whether it’ll have private or public status, its student-body size, and curriculum. But the game’s focus is not just to entertain.

“There’s a lack of understanding about the systematic character of a university,” William F. Massey, the developer of Virtual U, said. Massey, who is a higher-education researcher at Stanford University, says he and others associated with the project hope that it gives a realistic view of how major universities are run. Players must organize spending for the university while at the same time trying to maintain enrollment and faculty morale.

Though creators of Virtual U say that it will not be as action-packed as SimCity, it will help the average person and college student understand the peaks and valleys of higher education.

“It makes you say, ‘Thank God I’m not an administrator,’” Neil Salkind, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas said. Virtual U will be released in March.

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Oklahoma college students to receive financial aid bonuses

Matt Welch  
OKLAHOMA DAILY  
(U. OKLAHOMA)  
(U-WIRE) NOR-MAN, Okla. -- For 449 Oklahoma college students, $305,300 sounds like a nice way to ring in the new year. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education distributed financial aid bonuses Dec. 10 and will award Oklahoma college students an additional $16 million in the next six months, said Laura Callahan, executive director of communications for the state regents.

The U.S. Congress donated $20.5 million to Oklahoma's "Gear Up" (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program.

"It's a federal program designed to help students better prepare for college, specifically students from low-income families," Callahan said. "We're looking for students with the greatest need and helping them by providing funds."

The financial aid bonuses are limited to those students who are on an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program scholarship and are also eligible for a Pell grant.

"This OHLAP plus award will help more Oklahoma students achieve their educational goals by helping to fill the gap between a student's financial aid package and the actual cost of attending college," said State Regents Chancellor Hans Brisch in a statement. "Oklahoma higher education applauds the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., which helped to make this financial award possible."

Callahan said that in determining a student's potential for receiving a financial aid bonus, the state regents consider the student's need for financial aid to what the student currently has.

The five-year grant was awarded by the federal government in August, Callahan said. She said she was thrilled at the amount of the grant. Oklahoma received the highest per capita award in the nation and the third largest award, exceeded only by California and Texas, she said.

Callahan said a component of the grant is financial aid, specifically enhancing the Oklahoma higher access program.

"That is the reason we're able to distribute the financial bonuses to Oklahoma college students who have the greatest need," she said.

Callahan said the grants awarded by Congress will only last for five years. A portion of the grant will go toward the OHLAP funds, she said.

"Gear Up is providing funding to help us expand OHLAP," Callahan said. The bonus is not limited to student loans.

"It's a check that can be used to purchase books or living expenses," Callahan said. She said a conglomerate of public, private and governmental organizations and public industries have matched the $20.5 million awarded to Oklahoma "Gear Up."

Eighth, ninth and 10th grade high school students are the only students who can apply for the OHLAP scholarship, but current Oklahoma students who are receiving the OHLAP scholarship are eligible to benefit from the bonuses. "OHLAP is an outstanding program that is making college a reality for many Oklahoma students," said state regents Chairman Bill W. Burgess Jr., in a statement.
Exchange wins out over bookstore

FROM PAGE 1

because the prices are great.”

Wednesday’s lines did not seem to deter students from searching through the Book Exchange’s shelves for books.

A cell biology major who wished to remain anonymous said she always starts off the quarter with a trip to the Book Exchange. “Sometimes you get lucky and find a book for half-off,” she said. “And other times you just get $1 or $2 off.”

This year, the Book Exchange is better equipped to serve its patrons with 10 new computers: “There’s less of a paper process now that we are equipped with more computers,” Shiu said. “We even accept credit cards now.”

More technology also allows the Book Exchange easier access to its database of the texts the professors plan to teach with,” Shiu said.

Exchange wins out over bookstore

High-Speed Internet Access Comes to UCF

ANDY LURIC
STAFF WRITER

Time Warner Cable’s Roadrunner service is now available for most people living in the UCF area. It is available to any apartment or home with cable hookups. The service provides high-speed Internet access up to 50 times faster than a standard 56k modem.

Roadrunner came to Central Florida in the summer of 1999, and has slowly expanded its service area throughout Orange, Seminole, and Brevard counties. Recently, in December 1999, they expanded to include residence around UCF. According to one of their cable technicians, “I’ve been surprised that there hasn’t been many requests from UCF students.”

The service costs roughly $100 for installation, and $40 a month for service. These prices will vary depending on your computer’s current hardware, and whether you subscribe to Time Warner’s standard cable service.

The Roadrunner service has many benefits compared to a standard modem connection like speed, a phone line that is not occupied, and an constant connection. The cable modem can also be linked to a single computer on a network and allow all individuals on that network to use the same cable modem.

This is comparable to the computer labs on campus, since they are all connected to the same Internet backbone. However, it is important to note that the bandwidth, or how much data can travel at once across the connection, of the UCF campus is much larger than that of a single cable modem. So trying to branch off more than a few computers would leave you with the same slow connection you have been trying to avoid.

With high-speed access becoming more available, the Internet provides many more opportunities to make use of this connection, including such things as watching movies online. While these things are still possible on a standard 56k modem, most users are not willing to wait for a long time or sacrifice picture quality.

Roadrunner service can be reached on the World Wide Web at http://www.twccentralflorida.com/ or at 1-877-TWC-FAST.
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January 12, 2000

Central Florida Future • 5

President Hitt candid about presidency, self

FROM PAGE 1

Partnership University. I liked these five goals in 1992, and I like them even more today.”

Q. What’s the best and worst part about being a university president?

“The best thing about being a university president is that one has an opportunity to influence one of society’s most important institutions in ways that allow it to fulfill its potential to allow people to build for themselves better, more productive, and more satisfying lives. It’s a very demanding complex and challenging job, but it has strong, deep intrinsic worth.

Although it’s fashionable for university presidents to complain about the burdens of the office, I don’t find any aspects of the presidency particularly unpleasant or distressful. When asked about the bad aspects of the job, groups of university presidents almost invariably mention the fact that it is difficult to have friendships within the university and that the presidency is an all-consuming job that never ends. It is a 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week, fifty-two-week-per-year responsibility. While one retains the office, wherever one goes, whatever one does, there is never a time when one is not the president. I would add to that list the fact that there are so many different things that a president must do that there is very little time that can be spent on any one task. That means that a president must almost always get his or her sense of accomplishment through the efforts of others. Those who can’t accommodate to these facts often become unhappy with the job.”

Q. Why do you think UCF has grown so much since it was founded?

“Since classes were first offered in 1968, UCF has offered the academic programs most needed to support the citizens and economy of Central Florida. Couple that fact with the tremendous growth of Orlando and Central Florida, and one has a good formula for explosive growth.”

Q. If you could give a piece of advice to a student about their education, what would it be?

“Remember that your education should prepare you for a life as well as a livelihood. I’d offer four admonitions:

Find something you like to do that has intrinsic worth and work as hard as you must to get really good at it.

Become a good writer and an effective speaker.

Find time for courses in the arts and humanities.

Take all the math you can manage.”

Q. Do you have any regrets about your own education life that you wished looking back you could change?

“I didn’t take enough math and science courses as a freshman and sophomore. When I got in graduate school, and decided that I wanted to be a physiological psychologist, I faced a much greater challenge than did my classmates who had taken these courses.”

Q. How has UCF gained from being in Orlando?

“Being in and of Orlando has always been a tremendous asset to UCF. We are truly blessed to be in a city and region whose economy and population are growing and diversifying at a rapid rate. With our commitment to partnerships, UCF has an unending stream of opportunities to develop programs of teaching, research, and service that increase opportunities for our faculty, students, staff, and community.”

Q. What do you do to relax in your spare time?

“I enjoy reading, golf, fishing, and spending time with my grandchildren in Wisconsin, and it was very rejuvenating.”

Here’s to a great Knight out.

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Harvard murder suspect caught after 23 years

Marla B. Kaplan
HARVARD CRIMSON
(HARVARD '94)

(URIRE)CABRIDGE, Mass. — Nearly 24 years after the shooting death of Edward Paulsen, then a 28-year old Harvard University graduate student studying economics, police in Canada arrested a man long sought as a suspect in the murder.

Around 9 a.m. Wednesday, officers of the Canadian Immigration Task Force, working with both the FBI and Cambridge homicide detectives, arrested James Anthony Martin, 51, at his home in Montreal, according to the Cambridge Police Department (CPD).

Martin left Massachusetts after the crime and had lived in Florida, New York and Montreal under assumed names since then. When asked if he was James Anthony Martin, the suspect just shrugged and surrendered.

“He believed he would never be caught,” said CPD Sergeant Patrick Nagle.

The Sept. 9, 1976 murder was the result of a botched drug deal, according to police. Paulsen and his brother were trying to purchase one kilo of hashish from Martin at a location on Webster Street in East Cambridge.

According to Nagle, Martin, along with Gordon Kent Brown, were planning to take Paulsen's money but not actually give him the drugs. When the plan backfired, Martin shot Paulsen.

Brown spent six years on the run before he was captured in New Jersey in 1982 and later convicted of murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Martin was picked up on drug charges in New York shortly after the murder but used an alias and was able to leave town before his trial, according to Silverio Ferreira, a CPD detective.

He was indicted in absentia for the murder in December 1976. According to the CPD, periodically detectives reopen old files and look for new leads. When they did so with Martin’s file, they found him using the same alias, Bruce Benjamin, while living in Canada.

“Martin was very good,” Ferreira said. “He used 60 different aliases, knows the system well and was able to get out of the country fast.”

Martin had also spent five years in a Canadian jail on drug-related charges.

When police tracked Martin down, they found he had fathered a child with a common-law wife and was living on public assistance in Montreal. Though Martin was originally not home, Canadian police monitored his residence and picked him up when he returned.

Massachusetts authorities plan to return Martin to the Bay State to face murder charges, although it’s not clear when that will happen.

Martin's family has stayed involved in the case over the years. Last year, they attended a parole hearing to make sure Brown was not released.

In unsolved murder cases, Nagle said, it is often the family who periodically stirs up interest, usually around the holidays or the anniversary of the death.

Write the Future

Letters to the editor should be typed and must include a name, address and phone number for confirmation. The Future reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and libel. Submit to:

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Bradley intensifies campaign as first primary battles approach

RYAN MANNING
DAILY PRINCETONIAN
(PRINCETON, N.J.)

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. -- With only weeks to go before the first contests of the primary season, Princeton alumn Bill Bradley's campaign playbook hinges on two key states more than 1,000 miles apart: Iowa and New Hampshire.

In the all-out scramble that the race for the Democratic presidential nomination has become, both Bradley and Vice President Al Gore have intensified their efforts in anticipation of the Jan. 24 Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary Feb. 1.

The two have stepped up campaign appearances this week and debated head-to-head from Durham, N.H. Wednesday night in a nationally televised event. They plan to debate again on Saturday.

CRUCIAL PRIMARIES

For Bradley more than for the vice president, success in these early contests is viewed as essential to the survival of his White House bid.

"New Hampshire is the be-all and end-all of Bradley's campaign," said Curtis Gans of the Committee on the Study of the American Electorate, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

Winning New Hampshire and Iowa will be essential to propel the campaign into the next stage. The publicity of early wins is especially key to challengers, like Bradley and Republican Sen. John McCain, who do not have the institutional strength of their main adversaries.

Bradley, for instance, "doesn't have the foot soldiers from the labor unions" that will prove essential in key industrial states, Wilson School professor Fred Greenstein said.

FREE PUBLICITY

Success in New Hampshire and Iowa enabled Jimmy Carter, previously a relative unknown, to win his party nomination and subsequently the presidency in 1976, Greenstein explained. The national publicity Carter received was the equivalent of millions of dollars worth of advertising, he added.

After New Hampshire, the candidates will be bombarded with national attention as they prepare for the early March primaries. At this point, television advertisements will become the campaigns' primary tool, and face-to-face contact will be much more rare.

"There won't be time for hagging around in diners," quipped Larry Bartels, a Wilson School professor and scholar of presidential primaries.

February's rush is driven by the fact that the nomination could be determined by mid-March if either candidate fails to perform well in either California or New York.

Gans cited California as the second main hurdle for Bradley's campaign, after New Hampshire. "I believe California is critical to sustain his drive beyond March 7," he said.

Some Democrats disagree, believing New York to be a more important symbolic win for Bradley because of his years as a New York Knick.

If Bradley manages to survive through the March primaries, however, Gans said he will give Gore a strong challenge for the party nod. "He will have at least as good a chance of winning the nomination as Gore does."

Bradley will be helped in the long term by his recent fund-raising success. He now has approximately the same amount to spend as Gore, so money will not likely be the deciding factor in enabling the longevity of his campaign.

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Through the holiday season, I found myself buying a few things online. With this, I found out the joys of shipping. United Parcel Service, FedEx, Airborne Express, and the U.S. Postal Service are some of the most popular shipping choices, but we just deal with UPS and FedEx.

The main difference between the two is that FedEx (in its most common form) is an airbone network, and therefore the shipping for FedEx is two days. Its service costs a little more, but is promised by 3 pm on the second day. UPS offers UPS Ground, a larger array of options, including UPS Ground, the cheapest option.

When you choose your shipping online, you usually just consider your budget and how long you want to wait. If you are buying from a location nearby (same state), the UPS Ground can be as fast as the 2-3 day service... whatever. You lose it in your personal note, this is possibly the only time I'd use UPS.

So you are done right? Wrong. You figured out you don't really care when it gets shipped to you, and that you are a poor college student who just wants the lowest price. So you send it in UPS Ground. Excellent, they got you.

Yes, you may begin weeping. UPS requires a physical being to sign for the goods, and if no one is at home they may leave the very pretty yellow slip. I hate this slip. Your options now are to drive to Longwood to pick up your delivery (everyone else does this isn't it?), or put it in the hands of your neighbor. Most of us barely trust our roommates, let alone our friends. FedEx allows you to sign a paper that has them leave it at your door. Okay, this isn’t per­fect either, but I still prefer it. You can ask the company to deliver the package at a different time. I suggest this be done in a polite reasonable manner. Bribery works well, too.

Here is my own personal horror story. When calling UPS to request an earlier delivery time, them a later one (just not 3 p.m.) AGAIN, they said to me, “We can request an earlier time to our drivers, but they are not required to follow it, and probably will not.” What? I didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry. For the record, the next two delivery attempts were at the exact same time, around 3 p.m.

Then I called FedEx, and they said that they would put it on a different route and probably shouldn’t be a problem. Sure enough, the actual delivery time changed. I got my package on day two.

Ever since then, I’ve spent the extra money to have my items shipped Federal Express. I learned that I might be paying a little more money, but receiving my package, and won’t end up with a notice on my door that says that due to it being undeliv­erable, it was shipped back. That, my friends, is the ultimate let down.

Make your choice, as you will. I’m just telling you my experience. If you live a busy life, and can’t be home (or have someone at home), probably choose FedEx. If you are strapped for cash, and can’t be there to receive it, then I guess UPS is okay. I’m just not will­ing to take that chance.

I live in a school of flocks, herds, packs and gaggles

JEFREY KOSIEFF
MICHIGAN DAILY (UMICHIGAN)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- I never thought I had anything in common with fraternity pledges who allow others to torment them in the name of hazing.

Another group of my white-capped fellow students face allegations of duct-tape­related hazing. Throughout win­ter break, as my friends at home teased me about last month’s nationally publicized charges of hazing that resulted in a BB gun shot to the groin, I wondered what was going through those people’s minds. How did these sheep get into the University? Don’t they have any common sense?

I just couldn’t understand their actions. I would never let my friends near me with duct-taped BH guns or any other threatening objects. I would question authority. That sets me apart from them.

While I was riding my high horse of superior judgment, my friend pointed me to an experiment conducted by psych­ology researcher Stanley Milgram published in 1974. In other words, in “Authority,” Milgram told his subjects they were teachers and instructed them to send an electric shock to learners in the room next door every time they answered a question incorrectly.

With every shock, the voltage increased until it reached fatal levels. That’s what the subjects believed, but the “teachers” were actually only pretending to be shocked. They banged on the walls, screamed in agony and even yelled about heart prob­lems. They begged the teachers to stop. But the person con­ducting the experiment simply told the teachers to keep increasing the voltage. I’m not sure why until it was at 450 volts - a lethal level.

I would expect almost every subject to stop pressing the shock button as soon as they heard any signs of pain. Common people wouldn’t put others lives in peril because they were told to. There will always be that small group of psychotic serial killers.

Surprisingly, according to Milgram’s results, 65 percent of the subjects had that serial killer mentality. They increased the voltage to the highest, most deadly level. They did it because they were being told to.

I started to think about what I would have done. It’s tough to tell, now that I know the outcome. I’ve often blindly accept­ed and obeyed authority. Sometimes I believe what my professors say without critically analyzing their claims. I watched my peers in high school ridicule other students without knowing its definition. The sheep applies to

The second part of the experiment was even scarier. The researcher instructed the subjects to throw darts at a mannequin. They increased the voltage to the highest, most deadly level. They did it because they were being told to.

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I started to think about what I would have done. It’s tough to tell, now that I know the outcome. I’ve often blindly accept­ed and obeyed authority. Sometimes I believe what my professors say without critically analyzing their claims. I watched my peers in high school ridicule other students without knowing its definition. The sheep applies to
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GUIDE TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM
ANNA AND THE KING. An update of the 1956 scenery, unhurried pacing, easy-to-chart conflicts musical "Sweeney Todd," that's a hit with broad sight gags, gross sound effects and a pristine new sequence set to pieces ranging from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The funniest episode reveals that Floor 7-1/2 is a self-destructive natural talent, a difficult object for an audience to accept. Critical acclaim for "The Shawshank Redemption" continues to grow. The most radicai and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far is "The Wind in the Willows," a children's book that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. R.

DOUBLE DECEPTION. A movie based on a flawed premise leaves one thinking this must be just an exercise in rolling film. A stooped Bobby (Ashley Judd) is sent to prison for her husband's murder. When she discovers he is alive with their son and another woman, she plots to kill him. Of course, the rest of us would seek to have our sentence overturned, a quick release from prison and to be reunited with our son. Go figure. R.

THE END OF THE AFFAIR. An intelligent, beautifully acted and stylish film (starring Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore) that chronicles the passion and loss that occurs when an abandoned lover discovers his rival may not be flesh and blood but something more inexplicable, mystical and deadly. R. 1:45. 3 stars.

FANTASIA/2000. Though not as good or even as massively innovative as its predecessor, "Fantasia," boasts seven new sequences set to pieces ranging from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The funniest episode reveals that Floor 7-1/2 is a self-destructive natural talent, a difficult object for an audience to accept. Critical acclaim for "The Shawshank Redemption" continues to grow. The most radicai and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far is "The Wind in the Willows," a children's book that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. R.

PRISONER ONE: THE FIRST MOVIE. This Japanese import will be a must-see for Pokemon fans of all ages. The film is based on Pokemon cards, goes straight to video in a 20-minute "Pikachu's Vacation," which plays like a psychedelic kiddie dream, followed by the "60-minute feature, "Misterious Brown Rock." "Pokemon" is more linear and filled with moral stories played out in a fantasy and real-life setting. A standout plug for Pokemon merchandise? You betcha. G. 1:30. 2 stars.

PRINCESS MONONoke. An English-language translation of Hayao Miyazaki's anime film of Pokemon cards, a family favorite. Young Princess Ashitaka (voiced by Danny Cipriani) is wounded when he kills a bear that has forced him to flee a bloody, weird forest where he shot in another country. Ashitaka must find the source of the evil that has wounded him and free an injured bear. He soon encounters San, Princess Mononoke (Claire Daines). It's one man's vision of an ancient forestland with startling beauty that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. PG (images of violence and gore). 2:13. 3-1/2 stars.

ROSETTA. Many movies try for an illusion of reality, but few capture it as well as "Rosetta," a young woman desperate to give up her own life to end her suffering. PG-13. 2:10. 3 stars.

THE TALENDED MR. RIPLEY. Anthony Minghella's "The Tainted Mr. Ripley" is a perfectly brilliant, perfectly oscar-worthy movie star starring Matt Damon as Tom Ripley, a con artist and murderer who steals the identity and girlfriend (Drew Barrymore) of his rich victim (John Light). The movie is a virtual tour de force, a chilling look at the underside of America's society. PG-13. 2:10. 3 stars.

TOO MANY STARS. You can't ask for a film for less than what you get in "Too Many Stars," a send-up of Hollywood, a one-hour movie that features Meryl Streep and all-star cast. The film is based on a story called "The Legend of Pokemon," a self-destructive natural talent, a difficult object for an audience to accept. Critical acclaim for "The Shawshank Redemption" continues to grow. The most radicai and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far is "The Wind in the Willows," a children's book that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. R.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" is a self-destructive natural talent, a difficult object for an audience to accept. Critical acclaim for "The Shawshank Redemption" continues to grow. The most radicai and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far is "The Wind in the Willows," a children's book that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. R.
There is a vaguely Frankenstein-ish quality to NBA 2K ($50), a powerful Sega Dreamcast game that blends reality and fantasy. It vied for my attention during the recent holidays with another Dreamcast title, Rippin' Riders, and easily won the monster share of my time.

Some of the NBA 2K eeriness is in the players' eyes. Much has been made of how lifelike the pro basketball players appear, not only in terms of their facial features but in their animated expressions — like an in-your-face scowl after a ferocious dunk. During pregame introductions, though, their eyes sometimes slide from side to side like loose basketballs.

There's a little freakishness in that, but it fits the game's person. That's because with NBA 2K, published by Sega, you can create fictional players. You can face scowl after a ferocious dunk. You shape the face and body type by first picking from some preset categories, then "tweak" your player's appearance right down to the size of his ears. If you want a pear-shaped, bald and humongous-nosed point guard who can shoot the lights out, you can have him. Give him a prefixed nickname, a couple of tattoos and 128 bit of life.

Don't get me wrong. NBA 2K isn't basketball made strange. It's more like alternative reality. Visually stunning, impressively creative, deliciously challenging and incredibly detailed alternative reality. You feel as if you're transported inside the NBA, and you have to keep reminding yourself: "It's just a game, it's just a game."

Big factors in the game's attractiveness are the speed and fluidity of the action — heightening the challenge, because you have to be able to select that much more quickly and smoothly from a rich array of play-calling options and player movements. You not only need a mental command of your choices, you need to master all parts of the controller — joystick, directional pad, buttons and triggers. You want to play big-time hoops, you need good hands.

Some reviews have focused on passing and free-drive shooting as the trickiest, and slightly hinky, elements of the game. No question, the free throw system, which requires simultaneously even pressure on both triggers, is more irritating than useful.

In general, though, I found offense far more manipulable than defense. In fact, over the first five hours I spent with NBA 2K, I was no factor on defense. I had Hakeem Olajuwon posting up and jamming home points at a pace of about 30 points a game. But my half-court set defense was only good for watching the opposition make uncontested layups and having the announcers comment on my team's lack of D.

The commentary is another aspect of the game's richness. It acknowledges and reacts to the game's developments and trends with the same realism and near-naturalism that defines NBA 2K and makes it such a state-of-the-art achievement.

That's not so with Rippin' Riders ($50), another Sega-published Dreamcast title. It's a racing game, using snowboards instead of cars, and it features what is supposed to be ooh-ahh scenery that left me cold, no pun intended.

The snowboarding action is fine, indeed, the controls are very "tight," responsive and proportional, with a fine movement of the analog stick producing only fine movement on turns. But there's a commentator who's a jerk, chiming in repeatedly with insipid critiques, such as "What are ya doin'?"

You can learn and improve reasonably quickly in Rippin' Riders. In the free ride mode, which for the single player is the heart of the game, you work your way from a starter course up to fancier routes.

It took me about a dozen runs to get just course 1, but that was me. I kept trying to jump some massive boulders instead of realizing that everything was scaled to let my board slide right through some space between them.

The game is cute, not thrilling. That's true of the characters who do your racing, too. They include — really — "Tia," a high schooler who is "one fine trickster" and Bob, the Rastafarian. "Don't think about it. Just race."

Mike Antonucci
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Denzel Washington can’t stop raving: “The kid is amazing,” he says. “He’s the story.”

“The Kid” is Villenueve Reon Shannon, who shares the screen with Washington in “The Hurricane,” a knockout reality-based drama about boxer Rubin “Hurricane” Carter (Washington), who spent two decades in prison after being convicted of three murders he did not commit. His only crime was being a black man in the wrong place (Paterson, New Jersey) at the wrong time (June, 1966).

Shannon portrays Lester Martin, an African-American teen from Brooklyn who walked with and was educated by a group of Canadian activists. After reading his first-ever book, “The Sixteenth Round,” which happened to be Carter’s autobiography, Martin led the charge that finally saw Carter vindicated.

Shannon, a 28-year-old whose friends call him “Vi,” knew the instant he read the script that he wanted to play Martin. “Normally, I’ll read 50 pages of a script, put it down, take a little break and then go back to it,” the actor says during a conversation at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. “Not this one. This one I read through in two hours. Then I re-read it. I said, ‘OK, I’ve got to read (“The Sixteenth Round”).’ There’s a Hurricane song (Bob Dylan’s “Hurricane”) I never heard. I’ve got to get that. I’m getting all these things and thinking, ‘Wow, all this stuff happened and they’re just NOW telling his story?’

“After reading the book I felt the same way Lesra did. I thought, ‘Wow, what’s going on?’ So, I felt a lot of passion about the story. You can’t write anything better than this. It’s just great. The movie is about hope. It’s about love. It’s about faith. Just because someone can’t read or write, you shouldn’t be afraid to ask for help. That’s where hope comes in. I remember talking to a single mother who saw the movie and she told me, ‘Watching the movie inspired me to talk to my son, to help him and to make sure he gets everything he needs. It really moved me.’ It shows a positive side of African-Americans.”

Shannon conferred often with the real-life Martin and also met Carter on several occasions. In fact, Shannon, Martin, Carter, Washington and others involved in the film dined together a few times before, during and after the film went before the camera. Shannon was struck each time he met Carter by the man’s serenity.

“With everything that happened to him you would think he’d be bitter, upset, have a chip on his shoulder,” Shannon says. “But he’s sweet, gentle and full of knowledge. He’s still giving. I’m looking at him and I said, ‘Aren’t you mad about what happened?’ He went in jail for 22 years. He said, ‘I’m out now. I don’t want to shake things up.’ Hate him in prison and love busted him out. That’s why that line in the film is so important.”

Shannon was born in Memphis, Tennessee and raised in California, mostly in Anaheim. At age 20 he decided to give acting a shot and hopped on a bus to Hollywood. He found an agent, took acting lessons and soon thereafter appeared in TV commercials and made guest spots on such shows as “NYPD Blue,” “Moosha,” “Chicago Hope” and “Party of Five.” He was also a regular in the short-lived series “Dangerous Minds” and turned up in such films as “The Mighty Ducks 2” and “Can’t Hardly Wait.”

“Acting is therapy,” says Shannon, who just completed production on an upcoming TNT movie entitled “Freedom Song,” which co-stars Danny Glover and revisits the beginnings of the civil rights movement via the formation of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee). “You’re able to act out your anger. You’re able to act out emotions that you normally can’t, which aren’t politically correct to do (in public). If you’re mad at something, you have to suppress a lot of it. Acting lets me put it out there.”

When he’s not putting it out there, Shannon can usually be found at home with his wife, an aspiring chef with whom he lives in Los Angeles. There’s a warm grin on Shannon’s face as he notes that she’s six-feet-tall and gorgeous, while he’s five-foot-seven and baby-faced. “I get called a lot,” he says. “When I was in New York one time I wanted to see ‘The Siege.’ And they called me: ‘The boy,’ they said. ‘You’re not over 17?’ I said, ‘Oh, man!’ He saw my ID and said, ‘This is a fake.’ When I have people come out to my house to fix stuff, they say, ‘Are your parents home?’ I smile and say, ‘I’m the man, OK?’

“I get a lot of that.”
Henry Sheehan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You would never guess how young filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson is from the way he structures his movies.

From his initial, low-budget crime drama, "Hard Eight," through the attention-getting porn-biz saga "Boogie Nights" and up to his latest, "Magnolia," the director has displayed remarkable finesse in juggling a large cast of characters. Anderson quickly and memorably introduce us to a character, move onto the next and next one, double back and tie several of them together, split them up and pair them off in other ways. And then somehow he ends up with all these creations both convincingly changed in outlook but realistically the same in self by movie's end.

On top of all that, he's able to lead an ensemble of players through the action so that star and supporting player alike share in the spotlight.

The biggest star in "Magnolia" is Tom Cruise, who Anderson has handed a real plum of a part. With his hair knotted back, pseudo-ninja style, Cruise turns up the volume to portray Frank Mackey, an aggressive evangelist of sex. Cruise's Mackey is a good case in point: As played by the actor, he is almost hypnotically magnetic. It's not so much that he has a dark vision of the world as that vision seems unembarrassed, un-self-righting, more affected than learned from experience. Because Anderson is juggling so many characters and storylines, you might not notice that his main rhetorical device isn't inclusion but exclusion.

As it happens, none of that really matters because the movie is overtaken by Anderson's overriding and just about fatal flaw as a filmmaker: his emotional immaturity. It's not so much that he has a dark vision of the world as that vision seems unembarrassed, un-self-righting, more affected than learned from experience. Because Anderson is juggling so many characters and storylines, you might not notice that his main rhetorical device isn't inclusion but exclusion.

The whole movie is set up to prove that we are all in a room together, but in the real world it just looks like inexperience.
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Baseball team enters season with justifiably lofty goals

TRAVIS BELL  
STAFF WRITER

When the UCF baseball program finished 38-21 last season, many people may have viewed that as a bad season for Coach Jay Bergman. It was the first season since 1994 that UCF has won less than 40 games, and it was also the second consecutive season the Golden Knights didn’t win the Trans America Athletic Conference championship.

But, what needs to be remembered is that UCF lost 10 players, including seven juniors, to the Major League Baseball Draft following the 1997 season. Despite those major losses, Bergman still produced a 38-win season with numerous freshmen and sophomores being thrown into the fire and being counted on in clutch situations to produce.

At times they succeeded and at times they failed. But what needs to be known is that those freshmen and sophomores are now a year older, and they have the advantage of already having been in tough situations. And with the loss of only one underclassman in last year’s MLB Draft, this year holds nothing but promise for the Golden Knights.

Bergman, who is entering his 18th season as the Golden Knights head coach, has been the reason for the success of the UCF baseball program.

Since 1995 he has led UCF to four TAAC titles and five NCAA Tournament appearances, but this year’s team could provide him with his best chance of getting to Omaha.

Omaha is the ultimate goal for all coaches and players in college baseball because the Nebraska city’s Rosenblatt Stadium plays host to the College World Series, and every year only eight teams are fortunate enough to make it there. Bergman, who has not only returned to win the TAAC championship but could, if all goes well, give Bergman that first trip to Omaha.

But as I said, this year’s team provides the best chance for Bergman to make a visit to Omaha because of who is returning to the team beginning with senior Dustin Brisson. Fortunately for UCF fans, Brisson wasn’t picked until the middle rounds of the draft, so he and his single-season records of 17 home runs and 76 RBIs return to anchor an impressive lineup.

Along with junior Matt Bowser, who belted 13 home runs last year, they make a scary middle lineup for the Golden Knights. Brisson and Bowser are the strongest 3-4 hitters that Bergman has had since UCF broke onto the national scene in 1995 with 29 consecutive wins.

The only losses that could hurt the Golden Knights are the loss of leadoff hitter Tim Booth and catcher Brent Spooner. Booth provided speed at the top of the lineup and dependability to get on base, and Spooner brought a calming effect to pitchers that was seen toward the end of last season.

However, the key to UCF’s success this year comes with the pitching staff. Pitchers were the hottest commodity to leave UCF in the 1997 draft, and the effects were severely seen last year as the Golden Knights ERA approached 5.00.

But the return of senior David Rankin and spooner Justin Pope to anchor the rotation, very little concern should be made of the pitching staffs stability. And with the addition of Casey Kennedy from Virginia, UCF should have the best rotation in the TAAC. Then you throw in All-TAAC closer Jason Arnold, and you’re already looking at a stellar staff.

The Golden Knights have been to the NCAA Tournament, but now is the time to make the next step to the College World Series. This is the best UCF team I’ve seen since coming here in 1995 for a few simple reasons: experience and depth.

It has a solid 11-man pitching staff, who can all throw well when called upon, and this is the strongest lineup from top to bottom that Bergman has ever had while at UCF. With all those things going for Bergman, I predict that this team will not only return to win the TAAC championship but could, if all goes well, give Bergman that first trip to Omaha.
Blue chip tight end among five recruits to enroll at UCF

**SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE**

With national signing day still a month away, the University of Central Florida pulled a big shot in the arm on the recruiting front on Jan. 6 when tight end Michael Gaines from Tallahassee enrolled in school.

Gaines (6-3, 265) originally signed with Alabama last year after graduating from Florida High School, but did not meet NCAA academic requirements. He is now a full academic qualifier and is eligible to play.

Gaines, considered by recruiting analysts as one of UCF’s best recruits since Damien Calpepper, was not the only addition to the football roster to enroll at UCF this semester. December signee Patrick Jeonette (DT) is now on campus as well as 1999 signees Antoine Poe (LB), Derek Ponder (WR), and Chris Weeks (DT), who delayed their enrollment for various reasons. They will all participate in spring practice, which begins Feb. 16.

Gaines, a precision All-American as a high school senior, did nearly everything on the football field during his high school career. In addition to playing tight end, he played linebacker, kicked field goals, punted, was a backup quarterback and also played some at offensive tackle. He made 20 catches for 335 yards and nine TDs and had 110 tackles during his senior season and was chosen to play in the Florida-Georgia High School All-Star Game.

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**TAAC Mens Basketball Leaders**

**Points per game**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
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<th>Points Per Game</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Fellers</td>
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<td>14.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Emerson</td>
<td>Mercer</td>
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<td>D’Quarius Stewart</td>
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**Rebounds per game**

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**Assists per game**

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**3-point FG Pct.**

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**Steals per game**

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<td>Kevin Morris</td>
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<td>Cory Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marques Williams</td>
<td>Florida AFL</td>
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Women's Basketball Notebook

A Tale of Two Games

In their two home TAAC games last week, the UCF Women's Basketball team put together performances that were polar opposites of each other. In a 92-26 loss to Mercer, the Golden Knights played what might have been their worst game of the season, shooting 24 percent from the field and getting outrebounded 48-30. Against the Bears' zone defense, UCF was unable to establish an inside presence, with post players Camille Howard, LaToya Graham, and Erin Paige combining for only eight points and 12 rebounds. The guards were not able to deflect any pressure from the post players, making only two of 16 three-point attempts.

"They took away our strength tonight, which was our post players, and our guards could not hit the shots," UCF coach Gail Striegler said. "You just can't win a game when you shoot 24 percent. Every team has a night like tonight. We couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. We had open looks left and right that we just couldn't hit."

The Golden Knights turned things around against Troy State, taking an early lead and holding off the Trojans' full-court-press defense in the second half to preserve a 78-70 victory.

Facing the same zone defense, UCF's post players would not be denied for a second straight game. Camille Howard posted her fifth career double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Erin Paige scored 19 points and Graham added 14. The trio also combined for 21 rebounds as the Golden Knights outrebounded TSU 53-25. "LaToya and Camille both came out to play tonight, and those are the type of stats they should have every night," Striegler said. "They're probably two of the best post players in the conference when they come to play every night. Erin plays inside and out so she gets some of them inside and some of them on the outside. She's been our most consistent player as far as scoring goes."

In contrast to their poor shooting performance against Mercer, the Golden Knights shot 49.1 percent against Troy State. The game was a must win for the team according to Striegler. "I came in before the game and told our assistants that we really needed to win this one," she said. "I think it was huge for us. 'That's the first game we've played that we've played for 40 minutes. We had a few little dry spells in there, but we came through and every time we had a dry spell we answered with something.'"

Three-Point Woes

In games against Florida Atlantic, Mercer, and Troy State last week, the Golden Knights shot a combined five of 29 from beyond the three-point arc. "You're getting the open shots, and you're going to hit them," Striegler said. "The post players are only going to get a couple of looks (per game). On the flip side of that, I told the post players that if (opposing teams) are double-teaming and triple-teaming, they're going to have to go rebound and get their points."

Around the TAAC

Samford (9-4, 4-0), Campbell (8-4, 3-0), and Florida Atlantic (5-7, 3-0) are all tied atop the TAAC standings with undefeated conference records. UCF, with a 1-2 record in TAAC play, sits in sixth place in the conference.

Last week, Samford picked up wins over Stetson and Jacksonville, while Campbell defeated Georgia State. Florida Atlantic won three conference games against UCF, Troy State, and Mercer.

This week, the Golden Knights play two road conference games at eighth place Stetson (5-8, 1-3), and last place Jacksonville (1-11, 0-4).

David Marsters

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Knights fall short in upset bid at Samford

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Down by as many as 13 points in the second half, UCF fought back to lead the defending conference champs with just over five minutes remaining, but Samford proved to be too much down the stretch, defeating the Golden Knights, 75-67 at Siebert Hall in Birmingham, Ala.

UCF fell to 1-2 in conference play while the Bulldogs improved to 3-1. Both teams had games on Monday evening that were not completed prior to press time.

Against Samford, the Golden Knights struggled early and found themselves behind 19-8 at the 8:08 mark of the first half. A pair of dunks by Paul Reed and a 3-pointer by D'Quarius Stewart highlighted a 9-0 run that pulled UCF within two, but as was the trend for the majority of the day, the Knights failed to take the lead.

Samford scored 13 of the game's next 17 points, and ended up taking a 35-25 lead into the locker room at halftime.

UCF ended up pulling to within 44-43 on one of senior Cory Perry's four 3-pointers on the afternoon, but again, Samford managed to pull away.

Finally, at the 5:06 mark of the second half, a pair of Davin Granberry free throws ended a 6-1 run that gave the Golden-Knights a 53-52 lead, its first since the opening minute of play.

Unfortunately for UCF, it only enjoyed the lead for 14 seconds before reigning TAAC Player-of-the-Year Reed Rawlings connected on a 3-pointer to give Samford a two-point lead. Stewart, who finished with a team-high 15 points, took it in for a game-tying layup before Marc Salyers, who ended up with a game-high 20 points and 13 rebounds, put Samford ahead to stay with a layup of his own at the 4:23 mark.

Forward Jason Thornton had an opportunity to tie the game at 57 with 3:59 left, but missed the second of two free throws, allowing Mario Lopez's 3-pointer on Samford's next possession to stretch the lead to four.

Forward Jason Thornton had an opportunity to tie the game at 57 with 3:59 left, but missed the second of two free throws, allowing Mario Lopez's 3-pointer on Samford's next possession to stretch the lead to four.

Samford seemed to answer every UCF rally with a 3-pointer, and eventually wore the Knights down. UCF outshot the Bulldogs, 47.4 percent to 45.1, but the Golden Knights struggled from 3-point range by making only five of 18 attempts.

Samford also benefitted from 20 UCF fouls, making 20 of 27 free throws. UCF was eight of 12 from the line.

Samford improved to 13-2 all time against the Golden Knights, who have never won at Siebert Hall and last beat the Bulldogs in the 1998 TAAC Tournament. The Bulldogs will play UCF in Orlando on Feb. 19.
Collegiate Baseball Selects Bowser TAAC Preseason Player of the Year

Collegiate Baseball Newspaper named UCF's Matt Bowser its choice for Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year. According to the newspaper, other Golden Knight players that hear watching include first baseman Dustin Brissain, pitcher Jason Arnold and Casey Kennedy, who transferred to UCF from Virginia for his senior season.

Bowser, who made the '99 Preseason All-TAAC team as chosen by the conference head coaches and earned first team status for his regular season performance, moved up to fourth in school history with 24 career home runs after only two years. His .346 career batting average is seventh among the Golden Knights all-time leaders.

For two years, Matt has demonstrated that he’s a strong force on this team and in the conference. I look forward to him continuing that way,” Coach Jay Bergman said.

UCF was chosen to finish second in the TAAC by Collegiate Baseball behind Florida Atlantic, last year’s regular season champion. The Golden Knights tied for third at 19-11 in the TAAC regular season and wound up fourth at the TAAC Tournament.

UCF baseball practice gets underway with new-look pitching staff

Jay Bergman’s University of Central Florida baseball team resumed practice on Jan. 10 in preparation for the 2000 season. The Golden Knights have been members of the Trans America Athletic Conference for seven years and won four championships in that time. The team should be extremely competitive in the TAAC this year.

“Our early focus will be on getting ready for the Disney Blast,” said Bergman. “Everybody reported healthy after the holidays and there are no major injuries to report.”

Early January conditioning will involve daily throwing for the pitchers, weight room workouts, and agility training for everyone. Even though UCF ranked second in the TAAC last season in team earned run average (4.67), Bergman revamped the pitching staff in the offseason. He acquired transfers Casey Kennedy from Virginia, Jesse Marfo from LSU, Scott Kidermier from Potomac State, Dan Stillman from Pasco-Hernando Community College and Clint Wells from conference rival Mercer.

Freshmen Von David Sturzbach and Mark Smietana also joined a staff that should be anchored by David Rankin (8-5, 3.94 ERA), Arnold (Palm Bay/Melbourne HS) (7-4, 2.67, 8 saves) and Kennedy (4-6, 3.86 for the Cavaliers).

Practices are open to the public and will generally begin at 2:30 each day through the start of the season.

The season gets underway Friday, Jan. 28 against North Carolina at the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast hosted by Disney’s Wide World of Sports.

Recruits make headlines in Collegiate Baseball

Golden Knights prospect Dante Armin (Key West/Westminster Academy) was selected a 2000 Louisville Slugger TPX Preseason High School All-American. The left-handed pitcher who transferred from Key West High school highlited the group of six committed to UCF on national letters of intent.

Collegiate Baseball publisher Lou Pavlovich writes, "[Armin] is another super-talented southpaw from Florida who has played for national teams. The 6-foot-3 hurler has been clocked in the low 90s."

"That’s a great honor," Bergman said. "I certainly hope that he’ll wear the Black and Gold next year."

The other five players that UCF inked in the early signing period received honors as CB blue-chip high school stars in the state of Florida. They are left-handed pitcher Troy Bowden (St. Augustine/Nease HS), left-handed pitcher Paul Labrano (Winter Springs/Oviedo HS), outfielder first baseman Blaine Schulte (Oviedo/Oviedo HS), outfielder Scott Carmichael (Orlando/University HS) and right-handed pitcher Justin Cerrato (Clearwater/Clearwater HS).

"It shows the hard work of Greg Frady and his recruiting, a real feather in his cap," Bergman added.

UCF baseball to appear twice on Sunshine Network

Sunshine Network will televise two University of Central Florida baseball games during the upcoming season. As part of the school’s ongoing agreement with the network, UCF appears on television in events of most major team sports.

Sunshine will broadcast Golden Knights baseball action statewide Saturday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. when UCF faces Wake Forest in the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast from Disney’s Wide World of Sports Complex. That game will be replayed on the network Monday, Jan. 31 at 2:30 a.m.
Golden Knights claim first TAAC win

Utilizing a hot-shooting perimeter attack, the Golden Knights built a huge lead against conference rival Mercer, leading by as many as 25 points to claim their first TAAC win of the season, evening their record at 1-1.

Jason Thornton scored a career-high 25 points, the most scored by a Golden Knight this season, to lead UCF to a 93-77 win against the Bears.

Paul Reed added 21 and 14 rebounds in the win, helping the Knights bounce back from a 74-73 loss in their TAAC opener to Troy State.

The Knights never trailed after a Roy Leath layup put them up 10-9 with 15:40 remaining.

"This was a game coming in that we thought we had to have," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "We were going to do whatever it took to win. It was certainly a ballgame we controlled."

Redshirt season for Lovett seems likely

With the season heading into mid-January, it's becoming clear that the only sight UCF fans will have of Mario Lovett this season will be of him cheering on his teammates in street clothes on the bench.

Senior Forward Jason Thornton hit a long jump shot in the second half that appeared to tie UCF's school record for 3-pointers made in a single game, but referees ruled that his foot was on the line, leaving the sophomore forward one shy of Brad Traina's mark of eight in a game.

"I was really hoping they would give it to me, but they said my foot was on the line," Thornton said. "It took me about six or seven minutes to get into the flow of the game. Then I hit the first shot and the rest of the game I was on. Every open shot I took I knew was going in."

Thornton connected on seven of 10 3-point attempts on the night, and is second in the conference in 3-point percentage.

Speraw said, "Jason's obviously a very good shooter." Speraw added, "We were able to get him open shots tonight and he knocked them down."

 elbows from the area will emerge to the center of the floor later in the game. The senior forward from Tampa had surgery in the off-season and has been unable to respond to treatment and therapy, leaving him hobbled and unable to play. His presence in the post on both the offensive and defensive end is sorely missed, as is his versatility and leadership.

"Mario Lovett is probably not going to play this year," Speraw said. "We're probably going to appeal for a hardship ruling for him. His ankle is not in a position to be able to participate at the intensity level that he needs to participate."

Lovett played as a true freshman and has a redshirt season available, making it likely that he'll return in 2000-2001 as a fifth-year senior.

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Golden Knights crack preseason top 25

Travis Bell

STATE WATER

The UCF baseball program has built itself into one of the most respected programs in the country, and it has also proven on the field that it belongs among the best. Baseball America agrees that UCF is a team to watch as they ranked the Golden Knights 23rd in their preseason poll.

The ranking marks the first time UCF has been included in the Baseball America poll since the week of April 13, 1998 (No. 25). UCF was No. 28 in the preseason poll that year. Collegiate Baseball had the Golden Knights at No. 25 on March 23, 1998.

"It's nice to be recognized in the national media as a solid team before the season gets started," said Coach Jay Bergman.

The reason for UCF's ranking can be attributed to the nucleus that is returning from last year's team that went 38-21, including a third place 19-11 mark in Trans America Athletic Conference play. Bergman lost senior second baseman Tim Both and senior left-hander Troy Satterfield, and the only junior that was lost to the Major League Baseball Draft was catcher Brent Spooner.

The Golden Knights had no problem scoring runs last year with over eight runs per game, and this year will be no different because senior Dustin Brizson and junior Matt Bowser return to anchor the middle of the lineup. They combined to hit 30 home runs and drive in 138 runs.

Paige leads UCF to first TAAC win

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF knew the TAAC would be a lot tougher this year, but what's happened thus far in conference play probably belies even its lofty expectations.

The Golden Knights, going into a Monday night contest at Jacksonville State, are 1-2 in TAAC play and are one of a couple of perennial powers looking up at former doormats Troy State, Jacksonville State, and Campbell.

That puts home games at a premium, and UCF will host a pair this week against Georgia State, which like UCF were a pre-season favorite currently struggling, and against Campbell, which has recorded upsets over Georgia State and Stetson and were just behind reigning conference champ Samford with a 2-1 mark heading into Monday action.

Georgia State, UCF's Jan. 13 opponent, has struggled despite having three major Division I transfers in its starting lineup and a former JuCo All-American on its bench.

George-town transfer Sherrard Long leads the team in scoring but doesn't appear on any leaderboards due to the fact he's only played a handful of games with the Panthers. Former Georgia Tech point guard Kevin Morris, last year's TAAC leader in assists, has struggled all season, averaging nearly three assists less than he did last year, while his scoring numbers have decreased as well. Meanwhile, former Alabama transfer Austin Reese, continues to struggle with the consistency of his shot. If they get things clicking, which at this point is a big if, they have the weapons to be the TAAC's best. GSU defeated Jacksonville by ten points on Jan. 8, getting a big game from Morris, which is something Coach Lefty Driessl hopes will continue.

On Jan. 15, the Golden Knights host Campbell, one of the TAAC's hottest teams. Shooting guard Adam Fellers has single-handedly shot Coach Billy Lee's Camels into conference contention. Fellers, a dangerous sharp-shooter, found his stroke just in time for conference play and has been punishing the opposition from the outside. After a humiliating 71-39 loss to Samford in December, the Camels have registered a pair of upsets against Georgia State and Stetson, with Fellers leading the team in scoring on both occasions.

Fellers has had help however, as senior forward Jamie Slammon has picked up his game after struggling early during the non-conference portion of the schedule. Newcomer Damien Harribal has also added a boost to the frontcourt, while the depth opposite Fellers, led by junior Eddie Walker, senior Matt Mardis, and sophomore Wes Layton allows Lee to employ a pressing attack while keeping his players fresh. A victory over the Golden Knights would keep the surprising Camels on track for a run at the TAAC's top tier.

For UCF, these two games are key considering the team will be coming off a trip to Alabama in which it lost at Samford and had a tough test against Jacksonville State. Additionally, following these two home games, the Golden Knights face their next three on the road despite not leaving the state, playing at Jacksonville (Jan. 19), Stetson (Jan. 22), and Florida Atlantic (Jan. 26), despite not leaving the state, playing at Jacksonville (Jan. 19), Stetson (Jan. 22), and Florida Atlantic (Jan. 26).