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Florida One ends up "the one"

UCF's CREOL professor honored

Darcy Elena Rodriguez STAFF WRITER

Peter Delfyett, Jr., a researcher and professor at UCF, was honored at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference in Baltimore on Thursday, Feb. 17. The event was sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Dr. Delfyett teaches Optics in CREOL, UCF's School of Optics, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics. Dr. Delfyett has discovered a method of fitting 165 gigabytes per second into one laser beam, which is enough for up to 32,000 television stations. Cable and Communications Systems Company will be able to use this new discovery.

Tyrone Taborn, chairman and publisher of USBB and Information Technology magazine, says that this prestigious award is given yearly to candidates demonstrating excellent performance and whose qualifications place them among the nation's highest achievers in technology.

Dr. Delfyett is from Queens, New York and earned his Ph.D. from The City University of New York. Currently, he teaches primarily in CREOL and has a joint appointment with the department of Physics. He continues his research which includes high-speed optoelectronics, photonic networks, optical information processing, ultrafast phenomena and optical physics and spectroscopy. He is also the executive editor of IEEE Photonics Technology Letters.

"I love being here at UCF. I love the people around me," said Delfyett. He has been at UCF since December of 1993. He enjoys being part of UCF and feels that he can "grow and expand with it." Dr. Delfyett considers UCF to be "more dynamic" than other older universities.

UCF's CREOL in a graduate school for optical science and engineering education and research. It offers state-of-the-art technology.

Delfyett Page 3

2nd annual Knight Images Awards double awards, sponsorships

Becki Panoff STAFF WRITER

The Knight Images Awards (KIA) to be held April 8th at 2pm, gives communications undergrads a chance to show their talents and expose themselves to prospective employers.

"We wanted to create a venue to showcase these talented students, to create an entity that could showcase their talents in front of the community as well as future employers," said Rachelle Lucas, KIA director. "We also want to make a scholarship event." This second annual event will be a3D showcase of student photography, with each student contributing a unique opportunity to display their talent in twenty categories.

KIA Page 5

Jane Elliot speaks about racism to UCF

Jennifer Mazzoli STAFF WRITER

"Racism is taught. We need to unteach racism." This was Jane Elliot's message to the audience that had the privilege to hear her speak at the UCF Arena on Feb. 15.

Elliot has been fighting against racism since the past 25 years. Her 1968 experiment, Blue-Eyed, Brown-Eyed was an effort to help her third-grade class understand racism, and all its effects, after Martin Luther King, Jr. killed. She separated the students on their eye color and then taught them what racism was all about.

What Elliot did not know was what the effect of her experiment would have on her, her family and the future of the children she taught. She spoke of the terrible ways that the citizens of her town reacted.

"If I had known how the experiment would end, I never would have done it," said Elliot with tears in her eyes.

Elliot's children were discriminated against, her parents lost their business and she was alienated from the other teachers in the school, all because she wanted to do the right thing and teach children that it was "okay to be white."

But on a positive side, Elliot has since spoken with the students that were in her class back in 1968, and they have said that their lives have forever been changed and that they would not be who they are today if it was not for Elliot.

JANE ELLIOT Page 3

UCF WEBPAGE
Universities will also be partnering with local middle and high schools that are rated D or F schools.

From Page 1

within the top twenty percent of their senior class would be admitted. The program however does not work this way. In fact it only adds on to the many different programs that the state already has in place. Many who attended the meeting on Thursday were in the frame of mind that the plan would decrease minority enrollment in the university system. This however is untrue as well. The plan will in fact increase minority enrollment.

"At Florida State University, we embrace the plan to bring more minorities to undergraduates," said President Talbot D'Alemberte, of FSU.

The programs which the Board of Regents voted in will not only increase diversity, but will also provide approximately $20 million more in government funding and financial aid for low income families.

"The addition of $20 million in need based financial aid will increase access to those people who need it most to improve their own lives, regardless of their race," said Piccolo.

The One Florida program is designed to improve college preparatory programs as well, such as the funding of the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test) to increase scores on SATs, increased availability of AP or Advanced Placement courses and making recommendations for eliminating inequities in grades kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Universities will also be partnering with local middle and high schools that are rated D or F schools. These 'Opportunity Alliances' will help minority recruitment and preparation for college. These universities will also step up their recruitment efforts in these low end performing schools to help the students raise their hopes and aspirations for their continuing education.

"No longer can we as Floridians start students off the block with a weight tied around their leg, whether that is race, socio-economic condition, or the fact that their school is not able to prepare them properly," stated Piccolo. "The greatest thing this program does is give hope."

Programs such as these are very important to the One Florida plan. In president Hitt's final words he stated firmly that he hoped that the BOR would vote for the plan as a whole and not just for pieces of the One Florida plan, and this they did. He made it very clear that he felt the plan could only work correctly if it were put into action intact.

"It deserves a chance to be tried and perfected. Carping about an idea without giving it an opportunity to work is the worst kind of racism," stated Myriam Marquez, a columnist with the Orlando Sentinel.

"My initiative ends racial preferences, racial set-asides, and race-based university admissions, not affirmative action properly understood," said Bush. "The One Florida Initiative transcends traditional notions of affirmative action and increases opportunities for Floridians of all racial backgrounds in ways that unite us, not divide us."

See photo poll on page 7 for UCF students response to One Florida

Other decisions at the Board of Regents meeting:

- BOA approved pay raises for some members of the board and a new set of guidelines when dealing with underage drinkers on campus.
- Also decided was a pay increase for seven of the state's university presidents, and Chancellor Adam Herbert. UCF president John Hitt received a $6,700 pay raise, which brings is salary to $196,700.

compiled by Becki Panoff, Staff Writer

The Board of Regents also approved pay raises for some members of the board and a new set of guidelines when dealing with underage drinkers on campus.
Delfyett discovered a method of fitting 165 gigabytes per second into one laser beam.

Lockheed Martin and his colleagues here at UCF for their support. Dr. Delfyett was first honored in 1993 by U.S. Black Engineer magazine and since has earned a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists that included a grant for a half-million dollars. He was also selected from hundreds of nominees to win the Outstanding Alumni Award. Dr. Delfyett calls this award "a tremendous honor."

Apart from loving his job here at UCF, Dr. Delfyett is happily married and enjoys swimming, playing basketball, chess and the drums.

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Elliot shows the audience how the world maps used in classrooms are not correct in scale and geographical placement by comparing them to the new world maps she said should be used for learning.

"We're all different inside, and it's okay."

Elliot's program was also humorous. She didn't hold back in her opinions, and told it how she felt it. The program was powerful, insightful and educational.

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GREEK BEAT

Cow Pattie Bingo

Kappa Delta sorority is currently holding a philanthropy called "Cow Pattie Bingo." Squares are being sold at $3 per square or $5 for two squares to be donated to the Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia. Those contestants who buy squares have a chance of winning up to $1000. The object of this contest is to have cows go to the bathroom in the squares contestants have purchased on a field divided into squares. The ladies have created this event. Squares are being sold outside of the Student Union.

New Angels

Six ladies have plans to be initiated into Pi Beta Phi sorority on April 7 through April 9. Christina Bostrom, Alison Brendel, Melody Collins, Mackenzie O'Bannon, Kerri Sheridan and Crystal Harding will attend meetings for the next eight weeks to learn about Pi Beta Phi and the entire Greek system. Upon initiation, they will be named "New Angels."

Diversity Dinner

Delta Delta Delta and Sigma Gamma Rho will be hosting the Diversity Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 7pm. All sororities and fraternities are invited to attend this pot luck meal which will offer a variety of foods. The purpose of this event is to provide all Greeks an opportunity to get to know one another.

Pikes for Tikes

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will host their first annual "Pikes for Tikes" philanthropy event on Feb. 26 at 7pm in the Education gym. Each participating sorority is required to enter a dance team and pay an entry fee of $75. The proceeds from entry fees will benefit the Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital. Seven sororities will participate in this year's event, and will be judged for a cheerleading or dance routine performance. Trophies will be awarded for first, second, and third place teams, as well as a spirit award for the sorority with the most women supporting the event.

Flaggin Down the Fun

Alpha Delta Pi's philanthropy, Flaggin Down the Fun tournament, held on Feb. 12, awarded first place to the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Volleyball Victors

Pi Beta Phi sorority defeated Kappa Delta in a final volleyball tournament held Tuesday, Feb. 15. The intramural volleyball season began in mid-November, and sororities competed against each other twice a week during their ten week long season.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Panhelleanic meeting will be held at the Pi Beta Phi house at 5pm on Wednesday, Feb. 23. Inter Fraternity Council meetings will be held at 4pm the same day.

compiled by Krista Zilzzi, Staff Witer

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Banking on their future...

Hijano Johnson, president of the American Bankers Association, recently spoke to two Commercial Bank Management classes in the College of Business Administration. A reception was held in-between the two presentations and was attended by students, faculty, UCF administrators, alumni and local bank officials. From left to right, Eric Stange, president of the student Financial Management Association, Dr. Stan Smith, SunTrust Chair of Banking ad Professor, Laura Cooper, finance student and Hijano Johnson.

Awards showcase students talents

FROM PAGE 1

including:
- Broadcast Advertising
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- Public Relations
- Print Advertising
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- Website Design

Students can pick up applications in room 238 in the Communications building, the application deadline is Friday, March 3rd. There is an application fee of $5 per entry, and there are unlimited entries.

The KIA's are the College of Communications largest event because they include all of the communications majors and gives them a chance to show their work to esteemed professionals in the Orlando area.

"This is not only an opportunity for the students to be recognized for their talents," said Dr. Bob Davis, Instructor and Head of the Advertising/Public Relations Department, "but also a chance for potential employers to take a peek at the prospects headed toward their field."

Last Year, an estimated 34 awards were given to communications students with awards in each category for first, second and third places and one student received the "Tony" Nicholson Award, which is awarded by Tony Nicholson, the Orlando homebuilder who is the benefactor of the School of Communication. This year the awards have doubled, with 60 to be presented.

"We are hoping to have over 100 participants" said Lucas. "We have tripled our amount from last year (in sponsorship donations)."

There have also been more sponsors added to the event. Some of this years sponsors include the Florida Public Relations Association, Public Relation Society of America, the Orlando Sentinel, Fry Hammond Bar, Church Street Station, Bitner.com, Sea World, Tony Nicholson, as well as others.

Another new feature of the awards is the Hall of Fame inductees that will be presented by the School of Communications Alumni. These will also be presented during the awards.

There will also be an interactive video show during the awards, and networking opportunities that will begin an hour prior to the festivities, at 1pm during a reception.

Anyone who would like to get involved is welcome to come to Quotes, which is held at 3pm on Wednesdays in Comm 101 or can contact Dr. Davis at 823-2829.

Have a story idea?
E-mail us:
news@ucfuture.com
Campus News Briefs

Scholarships Up For Grabs
The UCF Alumni Association is offering scholarship opportunities to current full-time students. Students can apply and pick up information regarding the scholarships in the Alumni Association, ADM 341, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

Mid-Terms Are Here
The Student Academic Resource Center, SARC, will continue to be open 24-hours until Feb. 25 for mid-terms. SARC provides an academic setting for studying, a place for study groups to meet, computer access for reports, research, and e-mail and tutoring services. SARC is located in PCI-103 near the Biological Sciences Building.

Last Chance For Withdrawal
The last chance to get out of that class that is giving students problems is drawing near. Withdrawal deadline for all classes is Friday, Feb. 25.

A Bead Slinging Good Time
Mardi-Gras is almost here again and is being felt on campus. There will be a Mardi-Gras Ball held in the Key West Ballroom Feb. 26. The ball will last from 9pm until midnight. The dress for the event is semi-formal and a mask is required.

Eat Right, Feel Good, Look Great
CAB Speaker Deanna Latson will be speaking Feb. 29 in the Student Resource Center Auditorium at 8pm. Latson will speak on student health and fitness.

Making a Difference On Campus
In order to run for student body president, you must petition the student body for their approval. Petitions are available in the Student Government Office.

Sand, Sun, Shores
Spring Break begins March 13, and will end March 18. The vacation period that all college students crave and wait for is almost here.

compiled by Adam Shiver, Staff Writer

See your name in print
You can be a contributing writer, just write an article and submit it to The Central Florida Future at editor@ucfuture.com. All ideas are welcome.

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Photo Poll
What do you think about the “One Florida” plan?

“Students should be allowed into universities based only on scholastic aptitude.”
~ Aria Slankard, junior, Journalism major

“I think the SAT is a good system for rating everyone on an equal scale and this plan takes away from that.”
~ Ryan Chalmers, freshman, Business major

“The plan should not have anything to do with the type of school you go to but instead on the basis of need.”
~ Juan Quintana, junior, Paramedics major

“If I think the plan is unfair because I went to a pretty good high school and students that need help there wouldn’t receive it under this plan.”
~ Mara Buchalter, sophomore, Elementary Education major

photos taken and quotes compiled by Jason Kokotoff
SG Presidential Election Schedule

SHelley Wilson
Staff Writer

It's getting to be that time of year again for the next SG Presidential elections. Usually the elections are held by the seventh week of the Spring semester, but due to changes that SG is making in their statutes and constitution, the elections have been pushed back four weeks. A big change that will occur if all the changes are made in time is there will be a three-man ticket consisting of a President and two Vice-Presidents on the ballot for students to vote for.

Schedule:
February 24: First Informational Meeting - 2:00 p.m. SU 224
February 28: Petition Pickup in SG office - SU 214
March 2: Second Informational Meeting - 2:00 p.m. SU 222
March 6-9: Declaration of Candidacy in SG office - SU 214
March 7: Third Informational Meeting - 4:30 - SU 220
March 10: Election Commission notifies tickets and student media of date, time, and place of Candidate Forum
March 20: Fourth Informational Meeting - 8:30 p.m. - Senate Workroom, SG office
- Active Campaigning Begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Candidate Forum - (subject to change)
March 27-29: Area Campus Elections take place
March 28-29: Main Campus Elections take place
March 30: Election Results shall be posted no later than 9:00 a.m. on Election Bulletin Board
- Notify media of results
- Campaign Expense Statements Due (no run-offs)
April 4: Campaign Materials removed by noon (no run-offs)
- Notify Judicial Council of major violations by 5:00 p.m.
April 4-5: Area Campus Run-off Elections
April 4-5: Main Campus Run-off Elections
April 6: Run-off Election Results shall be posted no later than 9:00 a.m. on Election Bulletin Board
- Campaign Expense Statements Due
April 12: Contestment/Appeal Deadline at 5:00 p.m.
April 13: Submit problems/solutions to E&A Committee (no run-off)
April 14: Notify Judicial Council/Election Commission of appeal by 5:00 p.m.
April 20: Shall submit problems/solutions to E&A committee (run-off)

Library Exhibitions

These items will be on display in the Library n March 2000:

- Images of Italy, by Dr. Anthony Cervone, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

- Vitality of the Mind and Body, by Dr. Shelley Park, Office of Women’s Studies.

- Moving into the Millennium Caribbean Style, by Tamieka Johnson, Caribbean Student Association.

- Distinguished Author Series- 2000, Rita Dove, by Cheryl Mahan, University library

- Judaic Studies, by Dr. Moshe Pelli, Judaic Studies program
Slight Rise In Minority Enrollment, Graduation Rates: Report

WASHINGTON (TMS) -More minority students attend and graduate from college today than a decade ago, according to a report released this week by the American Council on Education. The numbers released are based on minority student enrollment between the fall of 1996 and the fall of 1997. They are the latest available.

According to the report, minority enrollment in institutions of higher education increased 3.7 percent, a slight jump -- 3.2 percent -- over minority enrollment reported between the fall of 1995 and the fall of 1996. The report also noted an increase in the number of minority students earning degrees. The number of bachelor's degrees awarded to minority students rose 8.6 percent from 1996 to 1997, and the number of master's degrees rose 6.4 percent.

The council's president, Stanley O. Ikenberry, said the study's findings suggest efforts to boost minority enrollment are beginning to produce results. "The new economy requires a higher level of education," he said. "And this reminds us of the importance of the crucial need for access."

Pumped up and ready to jam...
The 102 Jamz radio van came to UCF last week. Parked in front of the Student Union, they played music for students passing by.
Where has all of the activism gone?: what happened to the activist student

BETH SHAW  STAFF WRITER

I know that some of you were aware that the Board of Regents (BOR) was coming to UCF to vote on BOR's One Florida Plan on Feb. 17. However, I also know the more of you did not know. At least I hope that more of you did not know. I hope this because the lack of involvement was so meek that I was a little embarrassed to be a college student.

Part of the reason I am embarrassed is because college students are supposed to stir up controversy and be active. The other reason is because, as it seems to me, the BOR chose UCF for a simple reason, it is a passive campus. The most controversy I have seen has been on the annoying Free Speech Green which brings mostly Christian speakers who have frankly become common place and are losing any appeal that they had.

A massive e-mail went out to all UCF students warning of traffic problems. I woke with the intentions of seeing the streets bumper to bumper on campus, but it just wasn't so. I know that the photographer for the Central Florida Future was looking for a great photo opportunity, but it just never arrived.

I remember being in high school and wanting to graduate. Sure it was for parties and freedom but also for the chance to be an activist. Where has all of the activism gone? Some of my professors are just as bewildered as I am. They constantly try to encourage students to get more involved. Involvement can be many things ranging from joining a political group on campus to signing a petition. A new way to get involved is to write to your favorite UCF newspaper. I am a little biased to that one.

In the 1960's, all one heard about was protests and rallies and marches. Today we are lucky if anyone writes a letter. Sometimes writing a letter to a congressman can be just as effective as a protest.

In an article in the Orlando Sentinel on Feb. 18 staff writer, Jeff Kunerth wrote of the meeting of the BOR. "From the looks of it, UCF is where controversy comes when they don't want to draw a crowd." Wow, if that doesn't make UCF look like a second rate push-over of a college-I don't what does.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder: a look at long distance relationships

BECKI PANOFF  STAFF WRITER

Long-distance relationships. Inevitably being in college-you probably know someone in one or, if you're like me, are in one yourself. Everything you have heard about them is true. They take a abundance of work, time and patience. They make seeing other couples together heartbreak. They make holidays like Valentine's Day even more double their real length.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder." The cliche is true. Obviously, the longer we're apart, the more I miss him, but it's more than that. The distance makes me more aware of the time we do have with each other. We used to see each other every day, and now we're lucky if it's twice a month. You learn to budget your time a little more wisely.

I won't say this isn't hard, in fact it's probably one of the hardest things I have done. The conversations about whose turn it is to make the 2 1/2 hour trip to see the other one can get repetitive. You can only argue about which one of you can afford to miss work so many times.

It's also hard to have someone be such a big part of your life and be so far away. When something wonderful happens to you, you don't have the person that you want to tell near you. It makes turning on the radio and hearing a love song bittersweet, because you have no one around to share it with.

Most of my friends here have never met this person who I always refer to, to them he is "the boyfrend," he doesn't have an identity because he isn't here to share it with. Many of my friends here have never met this person who I always refer to, to them he is "the boyfrend," he doesn't have an identity because he isn't here to create one for them. I feel like I have two lives, the Orlando me and the West Palm Beach me, and neither the two shall entwine. When he comes up, it's great to see both of these lives colliding.

Some long-distance relationships don't work, some make the relationship stronger. It all depends on both people's confidence about making it work.

Sometimes that time apart makes you realize what you have in the first place, and reminds you not to take what you have for granted.
The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: scam artists take advantage of tragedy

JOSHUA MURDOCK  
STAFF WRITER

First comes the bad. Recently a tragedy hit the Orlando area, specifically the Orlando Police Department. Emamuddin Jimmy Saint Nattis shot Officer George DeSalva in the head, killing him during a traffic stop. Nattis also shot Officer Edward Diaz in the back.

Next comes the good. After these terrible tragedies happened, the community seemed to pull together and best interest went to both the officers and their families.

The very next day, the Orlando Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 25 established trust funds for the families of officers George DeSalva and Edward Diaz at First Union National Bank. Donations may be made at any branch of that bank.

Many fellow and former police officers, community members and businesses donated to this trust fund. Helping the family through hard times and their terrible loss, many people donated what they could to this cause and never knew either of the officers. Local radio station XL106.7 donated a total of $1000 to the fund, $500 to each family.

The donations might not make the pain ever leave the minds of the family, but could help them forget about all of the monetary trouble that come with losing a family member. Finally we all agree with the ugly.

A few low life scumbags have been using this terrible tragedy to their financial advantage. Someone recently reported to the police by a family member of the Orlando Police Department that a person called from a phone number and asked for a donation to the family of the late Officer Diaz.

The first mistake was that Officer Diaz was not the officer killed in this tragedy, it was Officer DeSalva. The other mistake was that the family member knew that only fund raising of money for the officer was through the First Union National Bank and no soliciting calls were being made.

If you ever pick up the phone and someone is trying to fund raise for a cause don't believe him or her for a second. Always check sources out on anyone asking for money on the phone. Scammers are out there to use the good hearts in society for wrong reasons.

If anyone calls asking for donations to the slain officer's families, play along with their act and get a phone number and address so police can put the scam of the earth where he or she belongs.

We encourage everyone to help these officers families and donate your extra money to their trust fund at First Union National Banks, any branch.

Harmless term adopts offensive identity

KRISTA ZILIZI  
STAFF WRITER

The English language is undoubtedly one of the most complex languages in the world. Slang, jargon and botched grammatical phrases only add to the complexity of our universal tongue. This standard of English, particular­ly slang, has become so common today, especially among America’s youth, that the majority is oblivious to the fact that these terms are not “Standard English”, but only a creation of rather creative individuals.

Like scandalous rumors, slang terms and phrases spread and catch on like wildfire, fueled simply by word of mouth. The promotion of slang language is far more successful and influential than any advertisement or broadcast through any one media form.

Phrases such as, "what's up, chill out, my bad, he goes, she was like, chicks, dudes", and so on, are so carelessly thrown around, we often don't realize we've even said them. Of course the list of slang grows significantly longer con­cerning drinking and sexual behavior.

Moreover, when we use these slang phrases in everyday language, they are rarely ever relevant, which becomes most evident when the young try to communicate with elders, grandparents and articu­late individuals.

So perhaps I've suddenly grown old before my time, but I realize for the first time, I am unfamiliar with certain slang phrases. Apparently the once seemingly harmless term "cool", has taken on a double identity. No longer can it sim­ply be defined as an instrument to be used by the hands (according to Webster), the term tool has also become a highly offensive insult as well.

What precisely is the accepted definition of this innov­ative phrase, used in its offensive context? Moreover, when did it join the ranks of other common slang like "cool" and "chilling"?

"Tool is a moron, loser, someone without common sense-it all lumped together," explains freshman Josh Villanueva.

It seems no one is absolutely certain of this all­too-modern slang and what its appropriate context may be.

"It apparently means differ­ent things to different people, because some find it more offensive than others," says sophomore Mimi Gagne.

For future reference, be wary of using this word negli­gently, for your ignorance may cause a shift towards highly enlightened individuals.

Take a chance—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: Central Florida Future Knight Publishing 120 Alexandria Blvd., Suite 17 Oviedo, FL 32765 editor@UCFFuture.com

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Has the chills taken you by surprise?

February 23, 2000
Central Florida Future • 11
www.UCFFuture.com
Orlando celebrates Mardi Gras

PATTY CANEDO  
STAFF WRITER

It’s Mardi Gras time again and for everyone who won’t be able to make it to New Orleans this year there is a way you can still can experience all the fun of “The Big Easy”. Universal Studios is putting on their annual Mardi Gras celebration with special features that will make you feel like you’re on Bourbon Street.

Universal’s interpretation of the festival opened on Friday the 18th and will be held until April 1st. Tickets for “Mardi Gras” are included in the purchase of admission to the park, which includes multi-day, season and annual passes.

The original Universal Studios park has been redecorated with streamers of rides, parades, and party masks for the seven weeks of “Party Gras.”

Nightly parades will be held which will feature fifteen (bead tossing) floats brought in from New Orleans. Guests can also spot street performers, stilts walkers, acrobats and face painting artists who can draw festive masks, throughout the park.

But the decor is not the only authentic feature from New Orleans. While Universal hosts the celebration they will be serving Cajun and Creole cuisine. Bowls of gumbo and plates of crawfish will be in various restaurants throughout the park.

After you have experienced a day of rides, parades, and good food make sure that you stop by the stage in the center of the park. While the attractions shut down at eight, the park will stay open until ten o’clock for some free concerts! Friday night, KC & The Sunshine Band were the first to appear on the Universal stage, followed by Kansas on Saturday night. Upcoming performances include Pat Benatar on March 4th, the Gap Band on March 17th, Smash Mouth on March 25th, and several more.

Even after the park closes you can continue the party with a walk over to City Walk, which has several different types of clubs.

If you still in the Mardi Gras mood you can visit a bar right out of New Orleans, Pat O’Brien’s, with various drink orders you get can keep the glass the drink is served in.

If you can’t venture out to New Orleans but still have the partying urge, then Universal Studios is a great place to visit. The authentic features, great concerts, and awesome clubs will make you feel like you’re there.

Mardi Gras 2000

March:
Sunday — Thursday
(February 20 - 24)
• The Reverend PP Pettibone & The Funky Blues Messiahs

Friday
(February 25)
• Michael McDonald

Saturday
(February 26)
• .38 Special

Sunday — Tuesday
(February 27-29)
• The Reverend PP Pettibone & The Funky Blues Messiahs

FIRST YEAR REMINDERS

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25th
Discuss course withdrawal with your academic advisor

Are you ready?...
Summer/Fall 2000 early registration begins March 27th

• Have you...
• Met with your Academic Advisor?
• Discussed your academic status this current term?
• Planned your summer and/or fall courses?

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• Academic Exploration Program (407) 823-2322
• Student Academic Resource Center
  PC1-102 (407) 823-5130
• First Year Advising and Information Services
  Bldg 541, Room 109 (407) 823-3789
• Special Programs
• Multicultural Academic and Support Services
  ADM 145 (407) 823-2716

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...
• Small group advising sessions will be held for First Year Advising office advisees beginning in early March.
• Call (407) 823-3789 to sign up for small group advising.
• Stop by your academic advising office and pick up a summer/fall 2000 schedule of classes booklet (available the week after Spring Break-March 20th)
• AND get a printed degree audit for your early registration appointment date and time.

First Year Advising and Information Services
Unit of Academic Support and Advising Programs
Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services
Pizza’s still college bestseller

Patty Canedo
STAFF WRITER

At the heart of any college student's diet is, of course, pizza. Yet often the consumption of pizza can have a dramatizing effect on our wallets.

For the last nineteen years Michael's Italian Restaurant has been serving not only great pizza but other authentic Italian dishes as well. Michael and Theresa Tarduno opened up their restaurant when Alafaya Trail only went as far as Colonial and the only other thing further east than their restaurant was Cocoa Beach.

Today they have become one of the most popular Italian restaurant's in the UCF area. There are several secrets to the success of Michael's, such as that all the ingredients used in the appetizing dishes are shipped in from Italy.

As well as being the owners of the restaurant, Michael and Theresa are two of six chiefs that prepare every dish from scratch. This charming restaurant provides beautiful Italian music and charming paintings with a casual atmosphere.

The friendly crew at Michael's asks for your patience as they cook your food to order but as you wait you can enjoy a variety of imported Italian wines, California wines several types of beer, and some delicious appetizers. Michael's caters to both lunch and dinner with a great variety offered for both meals. Every meal offers a hearty portion from the meatball subs to the chicken romana.

As a matter of fact Michael's large pizza is sixteen inches, when a sixteen inch pizza found in other restaurants is considered an extra large.

Not only is the food fantastic but the prices for a meal is hard to believe. Erbe Wold, a chef at Michael’s, said that a couple could have a full meal with leftovers for next days meal for only $20.

But one can’t forget the most important part of the meal, dessert! Michael's makes their own cheesecake, which is so good you'll forget to worry about calories; as well as offering other types of great desserts.

Michael's Italian Restaurant is located on the corner of Colonial and Woodbury road with a very considerate staff and awesome food waiting to be enjoyed.
Have you ever wanted to simply leave this world and journey to some unknown land? Many people consider reading a captivating novel a way of escaping reality. For those of you who prefer to spend free time in the pages of well-written fantasy rather than watching mind-numbing sitcoms, Edge of Eternity is sure to spark your imagination.

Author Randy Alcorn, of such best sellers as Deadline and Dominion, tells the story of a man at a crossroads in his life. Written in first person, the journey of Nick Staggrave begins when he awakens in a cave in the middle of the night with no memory of how he had arrived there. The cave seems to be located in a world known as Skathuros, "the window of darkness."

Nick starts out as a self-centered independent businessman on a quest to return home. Along the way, he meets different people and travels various roads. At first, Nick thinks he can figure things out well enough to make it on his own. Yet, throughout the book, Nick spends little time alone. Shadrach, an aged traveler Nick initially despises, continually encourages him to travel the Red Road. Unfortunately, the Red Road is one of about a hundred roads, most of which seem much more appealing to Nick.

During Nick's adventure, he sees visions of things that initially he does not understand. One moment he will be walking in a peaceful field, and the next instant, a great battle will be taking place, complete with other pedestrians being unwittingly slaughtered. Along with visions, he has to worry about a scorpion that lives in his chest, a giant flying creature that follows him, a web that wishes to envelop him and people he trusts trying to harm him. As the story progresses, Nick begins to change in small ways and questions his motives and thinking more.

The first fifty pages of this book seem to be the least interesting. As the book progresses, each chapter continues to add to the wonder, confusion, suspicion and delight that comes from reading a well written story. This tale reminds me of Alice in Wonderland, except that Alice is a middle-aged man who has destroyed his family life and become set in his ways. Yet, the way the author depicts the protagonist in this book seems closer to reality. Nick's thoughts of himself, his life, his companions, his present situation and the possibility of completing his goals contain a familiar aspect, representing the thoughts of many people as well as the view held by society in general.

Much use of symbolism, as well as many areas useful for application, exists in Edge of Eternity. Not only is this story one of fantasy, but it can be described as a fable as well. Throughout the book it becomes apparent that the author has a point to make. This is not your typical adventure novel, but rather, something that asks you to examine your own life just as Nick reviews his.

If you enjoy plots that are not easily determined and books that require intellect and suggest enlightenment, you will find a winner in Edge of Eternity. In a time when redundant sexuality and violence are portrayed on televisions and movie screens, it is comforting to know some fresh entertainment can be found. I encourage anyone with an open mind to consider reading the book and contemplating its meaning.

As the University of Central Florida Police Department heads into the new millennium, the Bike Patrol will be ready with advanced equipment to handle the increasing demands of their job. Six new Trek VRX200 bicycles were purchased in September. These bikes are equipped with a front and rear shock (dual suspension), have lighter aluminum frames, and cost less than the Trek 8000 that was being used by the squad.

The Bike Patrol unit began in 1991 with two officers using Giant ATX 760 bikes. This year the squad has six officers and has evolved through four generations of bicycles. The latest bike, has taken advantage of modern technology by offering a dual suspension system that gives the rider more comfort and versatility when riding. Before purchasing these bikes, the department was able to test ride one for one week. Officers on the squad agreed that the ease of maneuvering and comfort were two items that were well satisfied with this bike.

The squad then had input on outfitting these bikes to meet their needs. A less expensive set of lights, cyclofomer, and bike bag and rack were agreed upon. Insignia was placed on the bikes that would match existing patrol vehicles. By meeting the needs of the squad, the department cut costs by around $500 per bike. The older Trek bikes are being issued to bike certified road officers who are not currently riding full-time.

In keeping up with advances in equipment, the UCF Police Bike Unit will go into the new millennium able to handle the needs of the University and its community.

Sgt. M. A. Carpenter
UCFPD Bike Patrol Squad

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LEAD STORIES

- The Mellowing of the American Cowboy: "Holistic healing," or "low-stress livestock handling," is "changing the whole face of the West," according to a U.S. conservation official, quoted in Canada's National Post in December. Cowboys are happier, healthier and more obedient, he said, if they are not shouted at or subjected to stress but, as one rancher put it, allowed to "make up their own minds where to go." Not surprisingly, most rugged cowboys avoid ranches that have adopted the change. And in January, nearly 8,000 cowboys attended the 16th annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nev., before submitting their verses. Entrants had to prove to a screening committee that they are real cowboys.

- According to a February Wall Street Journal report, "milk, butter and cottage cheese" flavor-evaluation talent, at starter salaries of up to $40,000. Mississippi State's three-person squad won the 1999 contest in October, winning "ice cream" (by coming the closest in agreement with professional judges as to sensory quality), finishing second in "cheddar" and "yogurt," third in "cottage cheese" and "milk," and fifth in "butter."

Police Blotter

- Two undercover policewomen running a prostitution sting in Dothan, Ala., in October declined to arrest a pickup-truck-driving john, around age 70, despite his three attempts to procure their services. He first offered to give the women the three squirrels he had just shot, but they ignored him (too much trouble to store the evidence). A few minutes later, he added to the offer the used refrigerator in his truck, but the officers again declined (same reason). On the third trip, he finally offered cash: $6, but without the squirrels and refrigerator. The officers again declined but said they arrested him if he returned, but he did not.

- Texas Bomb Squad Follies: In November, a police officer in San Antonio confis­ cated two live bombs and nonchalantly took them across town in his squad car to the drug property, having mistakenly identified them as elabor­ ate marijuana bongs. Two weeks later, police in Cedar Park (near Austin), responding to a check­ cashing store's report of a "pipe bomb," sent only an animal control officer to the scene because the 911 operator had instead understood "python.

- Little Rock, Ark., police officer Carlson Dickenson's 57-day suspension for sleeping on the job was upheld by a city commission in October despite his claim of the disability of sleep apnea. In his four years on the force, he has been caught asleep six times and has wrecked five patrol cars. (Dickenson once denied to internal affairs investigators that he was asleep even after two fellow officers said they needed to rnap on his desk for 15 minutes to wake him.)

- Campaign to Help Police Recruiting: In August a judge in Halifax, Nova Scotia, ruled that undercover police could legally touch prostitu­ tes' private parts if it were necessary to effect the crime. And in November, the Arizona Republic newspaper reported that police guidelines in Mesa, Ariz. (concerning virtually all department guidelines in the United States), permit undercover offi­ cers to receive massages while nude if in the course of a prostitution sting operation.

- "Uh-OH..."

In its November findings after a year­ long study of correctional institutions around the world, Canadian prison officials recommended that nearly all of its facilities be made to resemble its most lenient, including eventually removing razor wire, bulletproof glass and guards' guns, and giving all but a handful of the most heinous inmates control over the keys to their cells so as to establish "a culture of respect."

- In a long-classified report on the World War II era, released in October, Britain's Special Operations Executive office warned that spies should know themselves to be generally in­ odes from their missions. For example, careless destruction of code materials shows a castration complex; getting captured reveals masochistic tendencies; and fear of parachuting responds to "the unconscious reproduction of the traumas of birth."

Recruiting Themes

News of the Weird reported in 1997 on how Palm Springs, Calif., airport authorities felt the need to issue hygiene regulations for taxi dri­ vers serving arriving passengers, including requir­ ing regular toothbrushing and daily showers with soap. In January 2000, the chief executive of Dublin (Ireland) Tourism told the Irish press to stop shouting at tourists to bathe daily and change clothes regularly in order to quell recent tourist complaints, although many drivers maintained the odors in their cabs came from previous passengers.

Nothing Can Go Wrong

On the heels of the loss of the Mars Climate Orbiter in September due to engineers' failure to standardize readings between metric and the English system, a U.S. government report in December revealed that a 1998 test of mock nuclear warheads failed because a contractor had accidentally installed a computer program that was not able to detect the error. Nonetheless, at a speech in February in Albuquerque, the manager of the Cassini interplanetary cruiser now heading for Saturn dismissed the program's apprehensive critics, even though its spacecraft blasted off with 72 pounds of plutonium in 1997 and approached Earth again in August 1999.

Undisguised Deaths

A 58-year-old man was killed when his small construction truck accidentally fell into a 25-­ foot-deep hog-manure lagoon near Lavon, Okla., in December (though divers could not find the body in the mud for 18 days). The same fate befall a 23-year-old man in December when his out-of-control pickup truck smashed through a fence in Orono, Maine, and landed in a 400,000-­ gallon tank of raw sewage. And a 57-year-old man accidentally asphyxiated in Darien, Minn., in December; his body was found stuck head-first in a sump drain in his basement.

Also, in the Last Month...

After two white police officers shot a black colleague, Providence (R.I.) mayor Vincent Cianci called on the city's poet laureate to help the community heal. An imprisoned Minnesota arson­ist legally changed his name (at taxpayer expense) to G.Q. Fires. Courthouse employees in Rome, Italy, found papers on Italy's 700,000 passengers.

- A federal tax official (Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, Box 18737, Tampa, Fla. 33679 or Weird@com­ puter.com, or go to www.NoteUsTheWeird.com/)
Dear Nancy,

I work with this girl who is really hot. I mean every time I work with her guys come in and give her compliments about how beautiful she is. Anyway we kind of have this flirty thing going on and the other day she snuck a note into my jacket. It was this poem all about love and how her heart is aching to be with me, how she has all this pain over me, etc. I've only known her about a month from work and I know she sounds like a freak but she's really like I said good looking. I'd kind of like to get with her. What do you think, is it THAT bad of an idea?

—Restless over romance

Dear Restless,

If you don't mind coming home to your pet bunny boiling on the stove then I say “Go for it!” But if you think you're restless now, look out! This girl has got it bad, in the head that is. This situation sounds like it could turn into an after school special, teaching kids not to get involved with someone who sneak a “love” poem into their coat. Let me guess, she wrote about how her heart is bleeding on the floor where you left it when you forgot to say bye to her when you left work the other day, right?

The way you mention how fine this girl is to you, makes it sound like you want a little nookie. Well if you think it's worth the chance you could try but it doesn't sound like it's going to be easy. You've hardly been around her and already she's talking about the pain you've caused her. Who knows what she's capable of? You could kiss her once and she'll be naming your unborn children and scraping the paint off your car when you're five minutes late to work.

There are plenty of beautiful girls in the world and if this one's interested in you I'm sure there are others that are too. I would think long and hard about this before making any moves at least until you find a new job.

—Dear Nancy

My roommate is in one of my classes but she never gets up in time to go to it. So when I get back from class she asks for my notes and what she missed in class. I thought it was okay the first few times but now she's driving me over the edge. How do I get her to stop or even better tell her that this bothers me and that she should go to class herself?

—Dedicated Roomie

Dear Roomie,

When you lay down like a mat, you can't be surprised when people wipe their feet on you. Why should your roommate bother getting up for class when she already has someone doing it for her? And I suppose that you're extra quiet so you won't wake her. Well, start slamming the door! Turn your alarm clock up a few notches. Blow dry your hair in the room while sitting on her bed. You're making it too easy for her to take advantage of you. Get up off the floor. Stop giving her the notes, tell her you didn't take any. Tell her you fell asleep in class so you have no idea what's going on.

Ideally (for me anyway) you could make a plan so that one day you sleep in and she goes to class then the next time-verse versa. That way you'll both be sharing, caring and loving roommates who are equally devoted and dedicated to one another. Then you can stop worrying about her muddy shoes.
First-time writer and director Ben Younger based his new drama “Boiler Room” on the actual inner workings of a corrupt brokerage firm, where a 21-year-old stockbroker can make $100,000 in less than a month. He probably would have been better off just making up something more interesting.

The story of a young man’s discovery that making money comes at a horrible price is trite, cliched and horribly predictable. Seth Davis (played rather limply by Ribisi), desperate to make a lot of money quickly to impress his tough-as-nails judge father, has spent the last year fostering a covert gambling business out of his tiny apartment.

Then a friend tells him about a new company called J.T. Marlin where a young guy can make a million dollars in a few years. Sounds too good to be true, and of course, it is. It turns out that Marlin, populated with slick, charismatic guys like Chris (Diesel), cheats its clients out of their life savings and passes the dirty money to its employees.

After starting the world’s least probable romance with the company secretary (played by Long), Seth decides to bring the company down with the help of the FBI.

All of this material is extremely tiring. John Grisham has written several novels that develop just like this, and it’s easy to be reminded of “The Firm” throughout “Boiler Room.” The film even intentionally recalls other, better movies in its same genre such as “Wall Street” and “Glengarry Glen Ross.” Instead of using these pop culture references to give the film a hip feeling, they remind the audience of films that worked better.

Younger can’t decide whether to revel in his characters’ ridiculous, high-wire antics or decry their activity as reckless, inappropriate and horrifyingly selfish. The film, schizophrenic in its approach, shuttles back and forth between a celebration of the excitement of the boiler-room lifestyle and a declaration of the evils of the self-involved outlook permeating ’90s culture. The film leaves the audience with a clue about how to feel toward its major players, and with much interest in their ongoing attempts to evade prosecution.

His attempt to blow the lid off modern greed and make a young, hip “Wall Street,” degenerates into just another piece of formulaic Hollywood fluff without real emotion or an idea in the entire running time.
Manchu, an Orange County, California-based band has been around for 10 years now, and though its previous releases were exceptional, King Of The Road is absolutely stellar.

Though the band may hail from the land of No Doubt and Sublime, Fu Manchu with a penchant for loud rock. If you like any type of loud rock at all, go out immediately and check out this album.

On King Of The Road, however, it sounds as if Hill has finally relaxed and embraced the rock swagger that the band's instrumental work has always had. It is a rare thing to be able to unequivocally say every track is a standout, but in the case of King Of The Road it is true.

Every song is a masterpiece in the Stoner rock genre structurally, conceptually, musically, and in the elusive litmus test of 'rockin' out' the band scores an 11. If you like any type of loud rock on this one.

The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band's latest release offers a variety of blues-based numbers from Delta-blues slide guitar to razor-edged rock. Though the band may lack the musical chops of B.B. King's late son, Raphael, Shepherd shows his virtuoso not only as a player, but also as a writer and arranger. Though his first album was released in 2000, the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band is making a name for itself in the blues world, and this album is expected to continue that trend. The disc's 14 cuts mix original tunes with covers of classic blues standards and the blues of the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, can be heard throughout the disc due in part to the contributions of three of Vaughan's former band members. Drummer Chris Layton, bassist Tommy Shannon and keyboardist Reese Wynans formerly of Double Trouble contributed to the project. Other notable musicians offering their talents include guitarist Warren Haynes of the Allman Brothers, Third Eye Blind bassist Aron Szlachter and Les Claypool of Primus.

Shepherd wrote or co-wrote 11 of the disc's 14 cuts. In addition to the originals, the band does an exceptional cover of Buddy Miles' "Them Changes" and a blistering version of the Fleetwood Mac classic "Oh Well."

"It's my third album," said Shepherd. "People are appreciating me more as an artist."

Shepherd's first release, "Leavin' Blues," yielded three Top 10 rock singles and held the number one position in Billboard magazine's blues chart for five months. The record also caught the attention of a young musician's toughest audience, that of other musicians. The Godfather of Soul, James Brown, called Shepherd "one of the wonders of the world."
In 1997 his second release, "Trouble Is," topped the Billboard chart for two years and contributed three No. 1 singles including the most played rock single of 1998, "Blue on Black."

With all his success in the studio the Shreveport, La., native still prefers playing live. Over the past few years the band has toured with the Rolling Stones, the Eagles, Van Halen and Bob Dylan. They are currently on their first-ever college tour. Past tours have concentrated on arenas and stadiums.

"To walk out on stage every night and watch the fans sing along—it's total fulfillment. It's what playing music is all about," Shepherd said.

Coinciding with his current tour, "Blue on Black." Beginning Feb. 18, contestants can download fulfillment. It's what playing music is all about," Shepherd said.

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UCF women lose pair of games, first-round bye

DAVID WINBERG

The UCF women's basketball team will now be playing for pride during the rest of the regular season, and have to make a Cinderella run through the TAAC Tournament to get an NCAA Tournament bid.

With losses to Jacksonville and Stetson last week, the Golden Knights were eliminated from contention for a first round bye in the conference tournament, and will have to win four games in four days to repeat as TAAC Champions.

In the two losses, UCF (6-18, 3-12 TAAC) continued a season long trend of falling behind by a wide margin in the first half and being forced to make big second half comebacks to have a chance. The Golden Knights fell behind 37-19 to Jacksonville at halftime and 33-24 to Stetson. Forwards Khaliah Guillory and LaToya Graham were the lone bright spots for UCF, combining for 62 points and 36 rebounds in the two games. Center Camille Howard, who was expected to return to the lineup for the first time in over a month against Stetson, dressed for the game but did not play.

The return of Howard, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, will likely be a gradual one now that the Golden Knights are out of contention for the TAAC Tournament, and will have to win every game it plays, but she knows the Golden Knights will have an uphill battle to reach their goals.

"Howard's return probably won't change a lot of different things," said Striegler. "We just need to execute the things that we have better and do a better job of stopping other teams on defense. Everyone will be back, but people aren't used to playing with each other so you can't make a lot of changes. Even when the whole team is healthy, we still only have 11 players, so its not like it's a huge bench anyway."

This week, the Golden Knights will play conference road games at Troy State (6-14, 5-9) and Mercer (11-11, 6-7). In their first meetings this season, UCF defeated Troy State 78-70 and lost 50-36 to Mercer. Both TSU and Mercer are among the teams fighting for that first round bye, and TSU beat Mercer 56-49 last week.

The two teams are a contrast in style, as Troy State is one of the conferences top offensive teams, averaging 72.1 points a game, and Mercer is the TAAC's top defensive team, giving up just 58.6 points a game. UCF's main advantage against both teams will be rebounding, as the Golden Knights are the best rebounding team in the conference, while Mercer and Troy State rank seventh and ninth, respectively.

TSU will be without Abby Boone, who was suspended indefinitely two weeks ago for a violation of team rules. The junior forward was leading the Trojans in scoring with 16.9 points a game. TSU is now led by Tomekia Golatte, who averages 10.3 points per game, and point guard Sharin Miliner, who leads the TAAC with 7.2 assists per game. On the defensive end of the court, 6'4" center Sarah Degrandi is second in the conference with 1.82 blocks per game.

Mercer does not have a player ranked in the TAAC's top 15 scorers, but sophomore forward Tracy Henry is second in the conference in rebounding and third in steals. The Bears are one of the conference's worst offensive teams, averaging just 57.5 points a game. Freshman guard Jo Shaw is the team's best outside shooting threat, averaging 1.23 three-pointers per game.

The remaining games on UCF's schedule probably won't mean much as far as the regular season standings go, but could be a spring board for a run at the TAAC Championship. Coach Striegler still expects the team to win every game it plays, but she knows the Golden Knights will have an uphill battle to reach their goals.

"We're just going to have to come to play every night, do whatever it takes to win each ballgame," she said, "You can't look too far ahead; you've got to prepare for each one individually and try to win it."

For more information please call the UCF Alumni Association at (407) UCF-ALUM, or stop by your local Florida tag agency.
Four to Glory

The UCF women's basketball dropped two games last week, eliminating them from any chance of getting a first round bye in the TAAC Tournament. This means they will have to win four games in four days to earn a trip to the NCAA Tournament in March.

The Golden Knights (6-18, 3-12 TAAC) began the week with a 61-54 loss to Jacksonville. JU guard Lexie Richards scored 24 points, and tied a UCF Arena record with eight three-pointers. Khaliah Guillory led UCF with 14 points and eight rebounds, but shot just three of 12 from the field. LaToya Graham added 14 points and seven rebounds, but shot only two of 11. The Golden Knights shot 26.4 percent from the field in the game. The team followed their loss to Jacksonville with a loss to another in-state rival, Stetson.

Nicole Knappmiller and Cher Dyson led six Hatters in double figures with 12 points apiece, as their loss to Jacksonville with a loss to another in-state rival, Stetson.

Guillory once again led UCF with 19 points, while Graham registered 15 points and 13 rebounds for her second career double-double. The Golden Knights have three remaining regular season games, the kids do a good job of never giving up, but the first half is killing us. "It's my responsibility to have them playing from start to finish, and I can't get them to," Striegler said. "We had a very good game plan, but we just didn't come out and execute in the first half. We weren't mentally ready to play. The kids do a good job of never giving up, but the first half is killing us."

One reason for the team's lack of scoring in the first half has been the play of their main post player, Guillory. Against Jacksonville, the two combined for eight points on two of 14 shooting in the first half. In the second half, their shooting percentage only improved marginally, but they got to the free throw line a combined 18 times and made 14 of their attempts.

Howard's Return Won't Bring Drastic Changes

The return of center Camille Howard to the lineup, which did not happen against Stetson as expected, will bring change to UCF's strategies, but not as many as one might think, according to Coach Striegler. (Her return) does and doesn't bring changes," she said. "Everyone will be back, but people aren't used to playing with each other so you can't make a lot of changes. A lot of people have been playing a lot of minutes at different spots, Erin will go back to playing more guard; she's been playing post because Camille's been out. Nancy will get some more minutes."

"It changes some stuff around, but we really can't add to many things. Even when the whole team is healthy, we still only have 11 players, so its not like it's a huge bench anyway. It probably won't change a lot of different things, we just need to execute the things that we have better and do a better job of stopping other teams on defense."

Before she was injured, Howard was leading the team with 11.2 points and 7.4 rebounds a game. She dressed against Stetson, but did not play in the game, and will probably see minimal playing time until the TAAC Tournament.

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Women's tennis blasts Barry to end busy stretch

David Winberg
Staff Writer

Nothing cures the ills of a trying stretch like a sound win.

"It has been a tough week, but the girls went out and took care of business today," said first-year head coach Patricia Allison after her Golden Knights' 8-1 victory against Barry University on Feb. 19 at the UCF Tennis Complex.

The Golden Knights, the three-time Trans America Athletic Conference champions, struggled at the outset against the Bucs from Miami Shores but later cruised to a comfortable victory.

"We really stepped up in the second set in most of the games and put them (Barry) away in the way we needed to," Allison said. "I'm proud of the girls' efforts because we played a very good Division II team in Barry," said Allison who improved to 4-2.

After its season-opening victory against Jacksonville, UCF traveled to New Orleans, La. for non-conference tilts with Tulane and Southeastern Louisiana on Feb. 12-13. The Golden Knights fell victim to a 5-4 decision against Tulane, ranked 45th on the WingspanBank.com Collegiate Tennis Rankings, despite wins by each of their top three players in singles action.

No.1 Veronica Widyadarma defeated the nation's 62nd ranked player, Anna Monhartova, in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-4. Swede Ann-Jeanette Svantesson, playing at No. 2, made up for last year's loss against Maiko Cook, topping the Green Wave player 6-3, 7-6, while Marieke Gunawan squeezed by Annelie Axsater at No. 3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. The tandem of Widyadarma and Gunawan recorded UCF's lone doubles point, serving an 8-0 decision at No. 1.

"The team competes very hard and for me that is everything," said Allison. "To lose 5-4 against a 45th ranked Tulane is frustrating when we are so close."

The Golden Knights wasted no time dispatching Southeastern Louisiana 7-0 on the second day in Louisiana. Gunawan, Gaelle Gouttefarde, and Daniela Okal set the early tone for UCF by winning their matches without dropping a single game. Widyadarma, Svantesson and Sonja Prokopec rounded out the singles sweep for the Golden Knights.

"This was a top 75 opponent that was still upset after losing to Tulane," Lions head coach Dan Silverstein said. "They got off to a fast start and were too much for us today.

With little time to prepare, the Golden Knight squad returned to action on Feb. 16 against host South Florida at the USF Tennis Complex. The Golden Knights gave the Bulls, ranked 40th in the nation, all that it could handle before losing 6-3 in Tampa. Widyadarma improved to 4-0 on the dual season after downing Katherine Tessier 6-2, 5-7 and 7-5. Gouttefarde gave UCF its second win by topping Natalie Schwartz 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 and Widyadarma and Gunawan upset 40th ranked duo Tessier and Tina Harrison 8-6 for UCF's third point.

"We know what we want to do to achieve a top 40 ranking, but it's not instinctive yet," said Allison. "We have shown (against Tulane and South Florida) that we have the talent, no doubt about it."

The Golden Knights showed their talent against the Savannah 'Hatters at the Mandy Stoll Tennis Center on Feb. 18, in yet another road game. Behind victories from Widyadarma, who dismissed 1999 TAAC Player-of-the-Year Taryn Lynn, Svantesson, Gunawan, Gouttefarde and Prokopec, UCF ran away with a 8-1 win.

The Golden Knights return to action against Rollins on Feb. 25 at the UCF Tennis Complex. Match time is set for 2:30 p.m.
Jeff Case

Staff Writer

UCF volleyball coach Meg Fitzgerald compiled a 19-12 record in her first season as the Golden Knights coach, despite having no previous head coaching experience at the Division I-A level. Fitzgerald, who coached Rollins College to a 14-5 record in 1998, served as an assistant coach at Colorado and UNC-Charlotte after a distinguished college playing career at the University of Florida.

The Knights completed a 10-0 record in the Trans-America Athletic Conference regular season for the team's longest TAAC winning streak in two seasons.

Despite the strong regular season, the Knights went 2-1 in the TAAC Tournament, losing a chance to go to the NCAA Tournament in the TAAC title game. Florida Atlantic beat UCF 7-15, 15-3, 1-15, 15-9, 11-15 in the TAAC title game to earn the automatic berth to the NCAA.

Fitzgerald is engaged to Ray Colado, a local banker at the National Bank of Commerce in Winter Park. She recently signed three players to scholarship with the Knights and spoke with the CFF to discuss her first season.

CFF: What did you tell your team after the loss to FAU in the TAAC Championship?

A: Well, we didn't meet our ultimate goal, but certainly we did some things that we're all very pleased about. Certainly going through the conference undefeated was a huge deal for us. It was really neat to go through that with the kids that we had that had gone through so many different coaches in so many different years. It was really good and hopefully it was satisfying for them to go through a season like that. They were playing really well for a good stretch there, we struggled a little bit there in the beginning, but I wasn't really too surprised by that.

It's a new team, it's a new coach and there's a lot of young kids starting a new system. I was pretty pleased with the way things turned out.

CFF: Did the season live up to your goals without winning the TAAC title?

A: Yeah, I felt I was really happy with the season. I really did. You always want to go to the NCAAAs, but going undefeated in the conference was an incredible accomplishment.

CFF: Looking at the NCAA Tournament this year as it was going on, did you ever think you could have beaten some of the teams that were playing?

A: Sure. We played Florida A&M the weekend of Thanksgiving and they went to the tournament and we beat them in three. So that's frustrating, but it's just the NCAA rolls out and how conferences work.

CFF: What did you tell the team after losing in the TAAC Championship?

A: Well, I told them not to hang their heads. What they accomplished this year more than surpassed what most people thought. Coming into this with a new coach and for two of those players it being their third coach in five years, that's not an easy thing to do. I congratulated them for making it through the season and for keeping a positive attitude. They took in what I had to say and that they handled the adjustment very well. I put them in positions that most of them were not used to, and I thought that they all handled it well.

CFF: Who do you look at as the leader for this team next year?

A: Well, we look at our senior class and our juniors. We look at Sam [Andisic] to give us some offensive power and certainly some defense. She did a fabulous job for us this year in that role. We look at Piper [Morgan], she's our big kid in the middle. We look at Shelly as being one of the strongest players on our team physically. We look at each of them to lead in a different way. I think come training camp, people will emerge. Certainly, you always look to the oldest players. I think people find [leading] on different days and they do it in different ways. They also do it in the weight room. When it emerges on the court, it's going to be scary.

CFF: Was there anything you saw that kept you from winning the TAAC Championship on the court that you can point to specifically?

A: Ball control. That's what we recruited and that's what we needed to fix.

CFF: What have you added to the offseason conditioning program for the players?

A: We've added a lot (laughing). For the first six weeks, they worked out four days a week at 6 a.m. Then, they came in here (UCF Education Gym) and had individuals (individual drills) for one hour twice a week. Starting on Monday [Feb. 21], it'll be team practice two hours, every day of the week. And they're going to lift three days a week at 6 a.m.

We have seen such a difference physically already. Casey Kerner actually has leg muscles now. We weren't sure she had any. But everybody has taken a big leap in their strength, and that's what we're looking for. We're looking to get bigger and stronger and that's what we're doing. Looking at the kids we have now and comparing them to the kids we have last year, it's leaps and bounds of improvement. They've really worked hard in the first part of the semester.
Three out-of-state recruits join volleyball team

Jeff Case
Staff Writer

Two seasons ago at Rollins College, volleyball coach Meg Fitzgerald stayed on the Winter Park school’s campus to recruit. Facing the prospect of coaching a team short on players, Fitzgerald practically scoured every corner of Rollins’ campus in search of players to fill her roster.

But two seasons later, the coach of the UCF volleyball team has found three new Knights by getting away from Orlando.

Jenny Frank from Colorado Springs, Colo., Shelly Krager from Germantown, Ill., and Lindsay Whalen from Kalamazoo, Mich., highlight the latest recruits brought in by the Knights’ second-year coach.

After falling short to Florida Atlantic in the AAC Championship game, Fitzgerald said UCF’s lack of ball control offense against FAU pointed out a glaring weakness in the Knights’ offense.

“All the kids that were recruited, especially the two out­side, have incredible ball control and good defensive skills,” Fitzgerald said. “We have a feeling we’re going to be using our middle [blockers] a little bit more next season.”

Frank, a graduate of Coronado High, played in 224 games, 485 kills, 845 assists, 307 aces, 45 blocks and 671 digs. She was inducted into the 1999-00 class of the CHS Hall of Fame and was an All-State Magazine Super 75 selection. She was twice named all-state for her efforts in leading Coronado to three Metro League championship titles and two state championship playoffs.

Fitzgerald says she plans to play Frank as a setter along with current standout Becca Saldana. Saldana led the AAC in assists and assists a game average, but Fitzgerald says Frank should find a way to challenge the Knights No. 1 setter.

“Jenny Frank is one of the top setters coming out of Colorado. She’s incredibly athletic and incredibly quick,” Fitzgerald said. “She’s played on a fantastic club team and partially offer, due to NCAA restrictions, Fitzgerald is tight-lipped about whether or not she’ll use it.

As the Knights recruit with junior college experience, they’re looking for players that I do have. That’s what’s recruiting is all about.”

While the Knights have one more scholarship to potentially offer, due to NCAA restrictions, Fitzgerald is tight-lipped about whether or not she’ll use it. If she decides not to use the scholarship this season, UCF would have four scholarships to offer next year.

Spring Break!

You’ve been lugging bags and stress around all semester. Now’s the time to lighten the load and take a break. Spring Break, that is. Spring Break is definitely a great three-week-bender and the best party the spring break season has to offer. Though, if you’ve got islands; fun (hopefully) sun and good times, then you can imagine it’s here. Let’s help get you ready for the college experience of a lifetime, here are some helpful tips from someone with personal experience.

Cardinal Rule #1: At all costs, DO NOT over pack. Have you ever lugged a heavy bag with a suntan? You’ve been hauling books and stress around all semester. Now’s the time to lighten the load and take a break. Spring Break, that is. Spring Break is definitely a great three-week-bender and the best party the spring break season has to offer. Though, if you’ve got islands; fun (hopefully) sun and good times, then you can imagine it’s here. Let’s help get you ready for the college experience of a lifetime, here are some helpful tips from someone with personal experience.

What You MUST Bring:

1. Sunglasses.
2. Bathing suit.
3. A few pairs of shoes. Definitely bring cool sandals for cruising the beach and a comfy set of walking shoes so you can hit the boardwalks...
4. Sunscreen on a great space saver and look awesome on the beach during the day or on a night out on the town at night. This perfect excuse to show off a tan!
5. A beach bag.
7. A camera.
8. A credit card (and only one) for emergencies. (What if the cash machine doesn’t work?)

Don’t torture yourself - leave it at home:

1. Your heavy-duty hair dryer - Chicks with friends and votes for one person (whoever has the smallest) to lug it.
2. Laptop or any other expensive electronic equipment. Sand, sun and sea air will wreak havoc, and tamper thieves.
3. Your entire CD collection. Grab a few of your favorites and hope you like your friends’ choices in music too.
4. Your bike - It won’t rain, but bring a deck of cards - just in case.
5. The beach: travel-size soap, shampoo, toothpaste and razor. Pack in plastic to avoid gross surprises at the other end when you unpack. (Throw a couple of gift cards in your wallet for food and good times for you and your friends. You’ll need a million uses for them - at the beach, after lunch and to wipe that sand off of your hands.)
6. Food. It’s too expensive to deal with your own. Playtex Gentle Glide tampons: have a unique design that adjusts to comfort fit. It’s more that it holds - they’re completely comfortable.

So comfortable you won’t even feel there:

1. Tampons. They offer more of a natural feel, and carry them to the beach. After lunch and to wipe that sand off of your hands.
2. A seven-day supply of tampons.
3. A bag of sun tan lotion, toothpaste and razor.
4. A bag of sunscreen, toothpaste and razor. Pack in plastic to avoid gross surprises at the other end when you unpack. (Throw a couple of gift cards in your wallet for food and good times for you and your friends. You’ll need a million uses for them - at the beach, after lunch and to wipe that sand off of your hands.)
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TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Fans everywhere want to see the fancy moves of the Sacramento Kings’ Jason Williams, but Kings’ faithful would probably rather see JWill take a cue from Utah Jazz point guard John Stockton and lead his team to the NBA Finals instead of a permanent spot on “ Plays of the Week.” UCF fans are currently getting a taste of this debate; only it is taking place between players on the same team. Senior Cory Perry and freshman Al Miller have been the Yin and Yang of the UCF point guard position this season, combining their talents to try and lead the Golden Knights to an NCAA Tournament berth.

Perry is the quintessential team player, making his mark at UCF as an extremely versatile point guard. His 490 career assists are second all time for a Golden Knight, but passing the basketball has been only a small part of his role. He is a defensive stopper, can score when he has to, and his four career assists this season, ranking among the top ten in that category. The duo gives Coach Kirk Speraw the option to have two competent ball handlers in the lineup at all times.

Unlike Perry, Miller isn’t the only one benefiting from this student-teacher relationship, however, according to Speraw.

“I think (Al) has learned a lot from Cory - the way he understands how to run things and how to run plays and the way he defends and hopefully Al is picking those things up,” he said. “But Al’s been good for Cory as well because of the things that Al does, Cory doesn’t do as well. It’s been a good combination between the two of them.”

Now that Perry is healthy and Miller is managing as a player, the team is benefiting from their dual presence on the court. Perry and Miller, often putting the two together, giving the team two point guards on the floor at the same time. They also are able to give each other much needed rest during games.

When Perry had to leave the game against Jacksonville State momentarily with leg cramps, Miller was able to come in and maintain continuity on both offense and defense.

“If he (Cory) gets the ball he can go and I can take the wing, or if I get the ball he can go and take the wing,” said Miller. “It kind of speeds up the pace of the game.”

CFF FILE PHOTO/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION MATT BROSS
Freshman Al Miller and senior Cory Perry have each distributed over 100 assists this season, ranking among the TAAC’s top ten in that category. The duo gives Coach Kirk Speraw the option to have two competent ball handlers in the lineup at all times.

PERRY AND MILLER, Page 28
Perry and Miller form formidable point combo

From Page 27

It's Miller Time

In last week's 68-64 win over Jacksonville State, freshman point guard Al Miller scored a career high 15 points and hit two free throws with 22 seconds left to seal the victory. Neither of those feats, however, were his most memorable of the night. With time winding down in the first half, UCF trailed JSU 38-26. Miller took the ball down court, and let a half court shot fly as the buzzer sounded. Much to his and the crowd's delight, the shot went in, hitting nothing but net.

"Jacksonville had the momentum in their way, and when I hit the shot it kind of let us know that we still had a shot," said Miller. "Believe it or not, I've hit that shot a lot in my career. When the buzzer sounds and I've got a half court shot, I can kind of like time it real good."

Miller also hit a half court shot at the end of the first half in UCF's 77-57 loss to Ohio University on Dec. 13. Ironically, those are Miller's only two three-pointers of the season.

Leath Out for Season

Senior forward Roy Leath will likely miss the rest of the season due to a pinched nerve in his leg. He has missed the last five games, and has not made significant progress recovering from the injury. This is yet another big injury for Leath had started every game in which he played this season, and was averaging 22.5 minutes per game.

Fellow senior Davis Granberry is the likely candidate to get more playing time, along with freshman Ikechi Nnakwe. Paul Reed, the other starting post player, will have to increase his 25.9 minutes per game. "It's just another huge blow to our basketball team. Now three of our best post players are out for the year. It really has depleted us," Speraw said. "Davin came in and gave us a huge lift but he didn't practice two days last week because of his shoulder. We're just trying to get by and find ways to survive."

UCP has already been without forwards Mario Lottow and Reonji Simms all season, who both would have played significant roles this year. "Berenci and Mario would have been our starting forwards this year," said Speraw. "And we didn't have them for a game. Roy has been our starter for most of the season, and now we don't have him. It really has depleted us. We're going to have to scramble around, and hopefully we can make the adjustments down the stretch."

Perry Sets Career High

In last week's 68-64 win over Jacksonville State, senior point guard Cory Perry set a career high with 14 rebounds. Perry leads all guards on the team with 4.0 rebounds per game, despite playing limited minutes due to a recurring high ankle sprain.

"I just had to get down there and help the big guys out," said Perry. "We only had one big guy in at a time, so somebody else had to get some rebounds. I figured I'd go down there and get some. Ever since I've been here I've been able to get rebounds. Tonight it was just coming to me - I just wanted it more than the other team."

He also scored 17 points in the game, one shot of his career high of 18, set in 1997 against Belmont. Along with the points and rebounds, Speraw praised Perry for his all-around game.

"Cory gets 14 boards, and just a lot of tough, tough plays and a lot of things defensively," he said. "He was covering up for people and helping people out, and just flying all over the place. He just had an outstanding game."

-David Marsters

Men's Basketball Notebook

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Baseball Notebook

UCF HOLD ON TO WIN 2 OF 3 FROM TECH

Justin Pope and Matt Bowser made sure that UCF would break even last week with a 2-2 record. They helped spoil the return of former assistant coach Mike Malick and his Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, as Pope led UCF to a 9-1 victory Sunday and a series win.

"Justin Pope established himself on the mound that he was going to win that game, and he went out and did it," Coach Jay Bergman said. "We got some hits at the right time, and we got a lot of guys in the ballgame. I think that shows the versatility of our ball club when we're playing 14-15 guys."

Pope threw 7.2 innings with 12 strikeouts and no walks as he mowed through the Tech lineup. With a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning, Bowser hit a towering two-run home run into the Citrus Bowl for a 3-0 lead on route to a five-run inning.

The win followed a terrible loss Saturday, in which UCF stranded 12 runners on base and gave up 10 runs over two innings for a 14-8 loss. Bowser and fellow slugger Dustin Britton didn't start for Bergman in an all right-handed hitting lineup.

David Rankin battled to a 3-3 tie in the sixth, but gave up the lead run before getting pulled. The bullpen allowed the floodgates to open, as four relievers combined to allow eight runs on 11 hits with four walks in the final four innings.

"When you look at what's happened to us it's been our relief pitching. It has been poor," Bergman said. "We have not been locating curve balls for strikes and they're just sitting on fastballs. Bottom line." UCF tried to make a comeback with five runs in the final three innings, but the Golden Knights five errors helped end it as Tech scored five unearned runs. David Jackson shut down UCF, going 6.2 innings allowing only three earned runs.

The loss on Saturday was a complete surprise because the Golden Knights had come back from a 7-3 deficit for a 10-7 win Friday night. After Casey Kennedy got knocked out of the game in the fourth inning, three relievers combined to allow only three hits in the final 5.1 innings with eight strikeouts.

"It was the first time that we had a chance for a comeback win," Bergman said. "We didn't panic and we let ourselves get back in the ball game, rather than letting this game get away from us." UCF cut the deficit to 7-6 with three runs in the fifth and added two more in the sixth for an 8-7 lead. The Golden Knights took advantage of Tech's three errors, but did not help themselves with four of its own.

NEARING THE MARK

Junior closer Jason Arnold earned his first save of the season Friday night during a 10-7 win over Tennessee Tech. He threw three scoreless innings with five strikeouts to earn the 21st save of his career.

The 21 saves tie the UCF career record previously held by Brian Huie. Huie's mark was set from 1990-92 in which he appeared in 76 games, Arnold's total has come in only 56 appearances, and he has yet to allow a run in 6.2 innings this year.

DOMINANT

Sophomore starter Justin Pope has appeared in four games, including three starts, and he has dominated the competition. After allowing four runs on six hits in six innings against Wake Forest January 29, Pope has thrown 16.1 innings, allowing only four runs on 12 hits with 20 strikeouts and only three walks.

"BWe were able to establish ourselves on offense against Tennessee Tech, going 7-for-10 in the series. He recorded four doubles, five RBIs, two runs scored, two sacrifice flies, and a sacrifice bunt."

STRAINED

The Golden Knights have had no problem getting runners on base and even in scoring position, but during the past week it struggled severely to drive those runners in. During the three games prior to Sunday's victory over Tennessee Tech, UCF left 55 men on the base paths. The 12 runners stranded during a 6-5 loss at Bethune-Cookman were a major factor in the loss.

UCF was fortunate to win a come-from-behind 10-7 win Friday night over Tech despite leaving 12 more on base. Eleven more runners failed to score in Saturdays disappointing 14-8 loss to Tech.

TRAVIS BELL
Graham trades in Kentucky Blue for Black and Gold

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore outfielder Jason Graham had a difficult decision facing him during his first season at the University of Kentucky last year. He could either stay at the Southeastern Conference school with the potential of facing some of the best teams in the nation, or he could return closer to home and make an instant impact at a Florida school. After some time debating, he realized that he had gotten caught up in the excitement of playing for a SEC school rather than making the decision that was right for him. "It was the hype of the SEC and all the benefits that come with that. I wasn't really ready for the weather though, and that's why I ultimately left," Graham said. "Anytime you're in the SEC or ACC, you've got a good chance to go somewhere. But it just didn't work out that way."

But all the decision making for Graham wasn't done just yet. After going to high school only 15 minutes from Florida Atlantic, he decided that he didn't want to be that close to home. So he chose UCF for one major reason: familiar faces.

He grew up playing all levels of baseball with Justin Pope, Pete Cavallito, Dustin Brinson, and many other players from the South Florida area. "I grew up with those guys, and it was big because I knew what kind of ballplayers they were," Graham said. "Going to Kentucky I didn't really know what I was getting myself into as far as how everybody else was competing. It's worked out great and I feel like this is my home and I couldn't be happier."

But one player that Graham didn't know growing up was Matt Bowser. However, the two He quickly recognized the depth in the outfield great and he got here, and what kind of player he understatement when talking about what Graham has done since joining the Gold.

"That's why Graham stays late and come early. He figures that he had a chance to come down here and do some good things," Bowser said. "In missile right when I saw what kind of player he was."

However, doing some good things is a drastic understatement when talking about what Graham has done since joining the Golden Knights. After not playing in the season opener against North Carolina, he got to start against Wake Forest and hasn't looked back since.

In the 10-game stretch that Graham has been starting, not only is UCF 7-3 but he has yet to go one game without a hit. He is batting .421 (16-for-38) with five extra-base hits and 11 runs scored. He also has his fourth RBIs and an impressive .476 on-base percentage.

"He's been a pleasant surprise, but not a surprise with a capital 'S' because we knew he could play after the fall practices," Coach Jay Bergman said. "(Assistant) coach (Greg) Frady has done an excellent job with him as far as his hitting is concerned."

Graham gives Frady even more credit because he says he used to be a free-swinging hitter that actually knocked out a lot. Now that Frady has got him in the correct mindset, he feels like a more complete hitter. "With the help of Coach Frady and the coaching staff, I've become a smarter baseball player. Before this year, the mental part wasn't there as far as maturity," Graham said. "(Now) I'm going up there with a plan on how to hit the ball, and I'm finally starting to get the pitches that I want to hit."

And Graham knows that he has take advantage of his opportunity because someone else could replace him if he begins to slack. That's why commitment is such an important concept for him. "I'm at the field early every day, and I usually stay late," Graham said. "Being prepared definitely doesn't hurt. If you're prepared that builds your confidence, and if you have confidence then that's hard to beat."

Graham also feels that playing in the SEC helped his confidence, and he's brought that positive mindset onto the field. He also says he realized that the competition level isn't much different between the SEC and UCF.

He quickly recognized the depth in the outfield for the Golden Knights, and he says that depth is why he came to UCF and what makes being here so enjoyable. "It's a lot easier to come to the ballpark and play when you've got the competition at each position like we do," Graham said. "In the outfield there are five guys that can start every day. That one day that you don't show up, you're spot could be gone."

That's why Graham stays late and come early because he doesn't want to one day lose that spot.

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In the PUBLIX Plaza with GIOVANNI'S PIZZA

Golden Knights face off against Crimson Tide

from page 32

three games, but nevertheless it gives game experience against top quality programs.

UCF has the talent to compete with Alabama, but the difference will probably come down to the bullpen, which has been shaky and could play a major factor in the three-game series if Casey Kennedy, David Rankin, or Justin Pope get into trouble.

Fortunately for Bergman, Rankin and Pope each had the opportunity to start at LSU last year, and Kennedy came from the ACC where he faced top caliber programs every week. Pope knows his start at LSU has helped prepare him for what he might face.

"Last year as a freshman I started there (at LSU), so I was a little intimidated," Pope said. "But this year being a little more mature, I can't wait to go there (Alabama). I know how to handle myself this year."

Alabama was ranked third by Baseball America in last week's poll, but a poor showing at a tournament in New Orleans will bump the Crimson Tide down in the rankings. However, losses against New Orleans and Tulane will have Alabama ready to impress its home crowd.

Outfielder Jason Graham transferred from Kentucky in the SEC, and has seen what road games in the SEC are like. He doesn't see too concerned about how the UCF players will handle the pressure in Tuscaloosa. "There's a lot of hype at Alabama and all the SEC teams. It's a hype that was earned, but it's something that can be overcome," Graham said. "Those guys aren't any better than us. As long as we're aggressive and play together I don't see any reason why we can't beat them."
Men's basketball ends regular season on the road

From Page 32

At least UCF is getting preparation for a tournament-type atmosphere now, playing in highly competitive games against teams that have been coming in playing their best basketball of the season. Last week, UCF ended JSU's three-game winning streak and Samford's five-game winning streak, showing a competitive spirit Coach Kirk Speraw has been hoping for all season.

UCF will have two more games to tweak its game before the conference tournament, playing at Campbell on Feb. 24 and at Georgia State on Feb. 26.

The Camels and Golden Knights will enter their showdown tied for the fifth place in the TAAC standings, with both teams hoping to make a run at a top four seeding. UCF won the first meeting between the two teams, 90-63, at the UCF Arena.

Both teams are just one game behind Samford, who close against Mercer and Jacksonville State this week. The Golden Knights aren't worried about what their opponents are doing, instead concentrating on their own business.

The Knights will close the season against a Georgia State team that may be playing for the regular season title and the tournament's number one seed. The Knights beat the Panthers in Orlando, 72-67, in their only meeting this year.
**UCF starts practice with emphasis on the run**

True to his word, UCF coach Mike Kruczek made the running game the focus of practice and an abbreviated scrimmage on Feb. 19. Kruczek, who has earned the reputation having a pass-oriented offense, stated he would emphasize the run during the spring. Running plays outnumbered pass plays nearly two-to-one during the 35 minute scrimmage.

"I thought the intensity was good," Kruczek said. "There's a lot more running and a lot more improvement technique-wise and I think the kids are willing to do it."

Tailback Edward Mack led the way with 50 yards on five carries, followed by red-shirt freshman Corey Baker with nine carries for 23 yards. Fullback Dwight Collins picked up 18 yards on three carries. Omari Howard had four carries for seven yards and a fumble and Terrance Williams had two carries for 6 yards.

"Eddie looked good, I think Corey will look good," Kruczek said. "He's got to learn what he's doing first. Once it becomes instinctive and he has his natural ability take over, he's going to be a great football player."

The_logits at running back got a little cleaner with the announcement that Williams will have surgery to repair a loose ligament. Williams had sprained his ankle during last year's fall camp and re-aggravated it in UCF's sixth game against Nicholls State and wasn't the same the rest of the year. Williams will participate in spring practice as a way to increase his knowledge of UCF's offense, but will have the surgery as soon as it concludes and will return for the 2001 season leaving this year's competition for the job to Mack, Howard, Baker, and incoming freshmen Alex Haynes and Gerard Jackson.

"This is Eddie's fifth year so he should feel comfortable and do pretty well. It's going to be a real battle ... I think. (All of the tailbacks) each bring a little something different to the game and we're going to come out of this thing with a starter at the end of 15 days, I hope."

In other aspects of the scrimmage, Vic Penn completed three of seven passes for 23 yards and was picked off by Dustin Densps. Brian Miller completed two of four passes for 80 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown to Thad Ward. Defensive ends Elton Patterson and Don Page combined for a touchdown for the defense. Patterson knocked the ball into the air on a sack of Penn and Page caught the ball and ran 30 yards for the score. Not content with that, Patterson later had a fumble recovery and Page knocked down a pass at the line of scrimmage.

"This off-season we spent an awful lot of time on strength development and not a whole lot of time on conditioning," Kruczek said. "We're working practice at a pretty rapid pace and you can tell the guys are kind of tired. But that's part of the philosophy, I want to find out who can push through the tiredness and find a way to get things done when they get tired."

The team will spend more time in scrimmage situations at the end of practice on Feb. 23 and all morning on Feb. 26.

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**Golden Knights take act to Alabama**

**Travis Bell**

**Staff Writer**

Traveling on the road in college baseball is a difficult enough task, but making your way to a Southeastern Conference stadium could arguably be the most difficult trip imaginable. For the second consecutive year, UCF will get the opportunity to show what it is made of in front of a hostile SEC crowd.

UCF will visit Tuscaloosa, Alabama for a three-game series against No. 3 Alabama beginning Friday at 7 p.m.

"We're starting our conference season then, and we should be in that Mode," Coach Jay Bergman said. "That's how we're gonna approach these three games with Alabama and three games with LSU as conference games."

Fortunately for the Golden Knights, the LSU series will be played in Orlando. But for many players, this trip to Alabama will resemble a similar trek that UCF made to Baton Rouge, Louisiana last year. The crowd got to UCF in the first game of a two-game series, and the result was an easy 18-4 LSU victory.

Matt Bowser remembers the feeling he had when he went on to the field at LSU, and he looks forward to the challenge that awaits at Tuscaloosa. "It was a rush going in there and playing in front of 7,000 fans that aren't rooting for you," junior Matt Bowser said. "It takes a lot to stay focused, but for the majority of us when we were out in the field it pumped us up and got us ready to play some good baseball."

Being in awe of their surroundings is a problem that should not arise with the older, established players, but with the newer members who have never played at a SEC-type facility. The Golden Knights did get beneficial experience against three top teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference in January.

While UCF took two out of three from the ACC at Disney, the atmosphere from the Crimson Tide faithful will compare nothing to the Disney tournament. UCF was close to home at a neutral site for those seniors Dustin Brissette is at the heart of a UCF lineup that has been very productive early this season, keeping the Golden Knights to games where their pitching fails them.

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**UCF Spring Football**

**Photo by Scott Wallin**

Men's basketball ends regular season on the road

**Tony Mejia**

**Sports Editor**

UCF's goal of avoiding a first round play-in game in March's TAAC Tournament has nearly come into fruition. Following last week's home victories against Samford and Jacksonville State, the Golden Knights are one win or a Mercer loss away from avoiding the four games-in-four days scenario that currently faces Stetson, Jacksonville, and Florida Atlantic if it plans on making a run to the NCAA Tournament.

Four wins in four days has never been done.

The Golden Knights certainly don't want to try to make history in that regard. In this case, the high road is definitely the easier one.

However, it isn't like the road will be all that easy. Even if UCF does get a top-six seed, it will have to go through one of the other teams with a top-six seed in the quarterfinals, and each of those teams should have at least 10 conference victories.