Central Florida Future, Vol. 35 No. 70, July 2, 2003
U. presidents’ raises no longer on taxpayers’ dime

Florida Legislature limits presidential salaries to $225,000

Provost leaves office

Whitehouse steps down, returns to teaching

Alex Barcock

Twenty-five years ago, Gary Whitehouse took a gamble. He left behind a tenured job at prestigious Lehigh University, a school with more than 100 years of history, to head the industrial engineering department at then-10-year-old UCF. After over a decade in the classroom and another decade as UCF’s second most powerful official, Provost Whitehouse officially stepped down this week to return to the classroom, leaving a changed, thriving university in his wake.

“I’ve really enjoyed being provost,” Whitehouse said, sitting a cup of coffee on a couch in his sun-blazed domain overlooking the Reflecting Pond. “I’m also going to enjoy not being provost. I’ve enjoyed everything I’ve done in life.”

As provost, Whitehouse, 64, oversaw as much as 85 percent of the school’s departments and programs, as well as day-to-day operations; he was the face of the administration for most of UCF’s staff, and for many he was a smiling, welcome face.

UCF likely to implement admissions writing test

The University of Florida recently announced that students applying to the school in 2006 will need to take an essay test for admission. UCF officials are likely to follow UF’s lead and adopt a similar writing requirement, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

An essay test is already planned for the SAT and ACT tests, which will be added in 2005. The UF College Board said the SAT and ACT essay sections will suffice for applicants.

This marks a dramatic shift for both tests, which will now divide their content into three sections, rather than two. The maximum score on each section will remain 600, meaning the new perfect SAT score will be 2400.

Currently, UF looks at test scores, GPA, extracurricular activities and family background to decide admissions. In 2002 the average UF applicant had a GPA in the range of 3.3-4.2 and an SAT score of 1190-1390. UF expects the new requirement to more accurately indicate the academic skills of incoming students. UF officials expect the same gain from such a test, which they say will help to maintain UF’s high admission standards.

Alicia LaBrake, a senior at Winter Springs High School, plans to attend UCF after completing her first two years at Valencia Community College. She says the addition of a new test is just another obstacle for students hoping to go to college.

“I know that competition is high, but I wouldn’t like it because you could have a decent GPA but just not be as good a writer as someone else and not get into the school you want,” said LaBrake, 17. “I definitely want to go to UF, but I’m just an all-eight writer. I’m not ready to take a writing test, and high school hasn’t really prepared me for that kind of test.”

In recent years UF English professors have become concerned that students are entering college unprepared and untrained for college writing courses. Patrick Murphy, chairman of the English Department, said that 20 years ago there were no remedial writing courses for first-year college students, but those...
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New admissions test criticized for potential racial bias

FROM PAGE 1

courses disappeared with budget cuts in the early 1990s.

Without such remedial courses, Murphy says many students are being forced to take their general education writing courses at community colleges.

He said a new writing assessment test would be a valuable tool when choosing whom a university admits.

"We need to understand better the needs of incoming students, assessing writing would be crucial for such understanding," he said. "It is important to use criteria that will help the university estimate an applicant's likelihood for success at the time he or she is applying." Many students enter the university with... insufficient knowledge of grammar, formal sentence structure and paragraph essay organization. These are the skills that enable people to communicate ideas across regional, cultural, generational and disciplinary differences.

LaFrance said preparing students for college-level English and writing should start in high school, without it, students are ready for college. "I know a lot of my teachers give me back my papers and they don't even critique the work, especially the writing," she said. "If they want to push writing skills, they should push it more in the high school classroom."

As UCF's popularity has increased, it has tightened its admissions standards, creating a paradox for some high school graduates. While each successive generation falls further behind, college admission standards move further away from students' academic skills.

Critics of the new test say that like the SATs, this form of testing can be racially and economically biased. "English professor Dan Jones objects to such tests, though. All kinds of tests have a potential for bias, he said, but tests should be minimized such bias as much as possible. In the case of a written exam, it should focus on the fundamentals of good writing, he said. "I'm happy to see this additional emphasis on writing skills. Writing skills are typically under-emphasized and undervalued. In general, students are "coming in to college with weak writing skills," Jones said.

A new writing test at UCF would first be administered to a trial batch, and not be required for admission, said Tom Huddleston, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Services. While professors who have been waiting for this type of test continue to add their support, UCF has yet to formally adopt a writing test.

"The selection for admission helps some students and hurts others in gaining admission to a particular school," Murphy said. "Writing skills are crucial for success not only at the university but also in most professions, and that's why many applications for professional positions require some type of writing sample of over... or built up the application process."

Ben Baird

Fire ripped through the innards of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house June 24, leaving at least two apartments destroyed and causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. None of the residents were in the affected apartments at the time, and there were no injuries.

A cup removed from a water heater apparently caused the blaze.

"It looked as though someone had removed a lower cover on a water heater... and some metal or something had fallen against the 220 line and started the fire," said Wesley Davis, University Apartments property manager. The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity rents the building from University Apartments. The fire moved from the hot water heater into the air conditioning unit, where it then spread to the rest of the ground floor apartment, and to the apartment above it.

No one in the building was aware of a problem until smoke was seen coming out of the building by a resident, who then kicked in the door to the apartment where the fire started, saw the flames and called 911.

"We do have smoke detectors installed in all of our apartments, but evidently in this one particular apartment the smoke detector was removed for some odd reason, by someone, either a resident or someone else," said Davis.

Firefighters contained the blaze within 10 minutes, and extinguished the first in less than twenty minutes.

"When our first unit arrived on the scene they had smoke showing from the first floor apartment, "on the bottom left," said Orange County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Michael Howell. The crew entered the building and extinguished the lower-floor fire, then checked for... extension," when a fire moves from its source to other parts of a structure through walls and ductwork. "There was a little bit of extension between the first and second floors that was extinguished," he said.

Accommodations for the residents of the affected apartments, whose names were withheld by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity president Christopher Klein, are being arranged by University Apartments. According to Davis, there are accommodations at the current location in which the displaced residents may live temporarily.

The thought of damages was not immediately available, Howell estimated repairs would cost at least several thousand dollars.

"I'm going to have to fill out my paperwork, file it with their corporate office and get our insurance company out here to do an assessment of it," Davis said. "But fire-fighters were still at work Klein already had contacted Pi Kappa Phi's National Headquarters and seemed confident that they would not have any problems as far as insurance concerns.

"I've already made several calls to the national office. It's fine, it wasn't our fault, so it's fine," Klein said.

This is the first fraternity house fire in UCF's history, UCF Inter-Fraternity Council President Ryan O'Rourke said.

Smoke detectors

How a smoke detector functions and safety precautions

Smoke detectors

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Safety. It is recommended that all households have at least one smoke detector per floor. Batteries should be tested every 3 months and replaced at least once a year. While battery powered smoke detectors are popular those wired to the home's AC-power supply are increasing in popularity. Many homes with AC-powered smoke detectors that have been built in the last 10 years in the U.S. are wired together to interconnect systems. This sort of wiring guarantees that if one alarm is in the house soundi...
State grants may keep pace, but not federal aid

BEN BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

UCF Board of Trustees recently voted to increase tuition for all students, by up to 15 percent for out-of-state and graduate students. Though federal students with Florida-based scholarships and loans may go unassailed by the recent tuition hike, many recipients of federal grants will soon see a decreased payout, making the gap between their income and their tuition even wider. Increases in the amount paid by federal agencies will be made to maintain the current levels of aid; however, the federally funded forms of financial aid will not increase, and for the vast majority of students will decrease by the 2004-2005 school year.

"The decision to increase tuition was made by the state," said Lisa Minnick, UCF associate director of Student Financial Assistance. "The federal government regulates federal programs, such as the Pell Grant, Stafford Loans and Federal Work Study." Awards made by the school, such as athletic scholarships, will be changed on a case-by-case basis.

Of the approximately 38,000 students at UCF about 25,000 receive some form of financial aid. According to Minnick, this number is likely to increase in the fall as many students who have never taken out a loan in the past may be forced to do so. "I would advise students to apply early and then follow up to ensure that everything required is submitted on a timely basis," said Minnick. "They [students] should reexamine their financial aid package to determine if they need to apply for other loans and scholarships." In addition to the rising tuition, awards given by the federal government will diminish starting in 2004, because of a new measure passed last month through the U.S. Department of Education. These federal awards will force Florida families that have an annual income of $50,000 to shoulder an additional $500 for the cost of college. Those with an income of $80,000 will have to pay an additional $1,500. Some students who currently receive federal awards will not receive any next year. The changes in the federal program will, however, offer some consolation for extremely low-income students. The changes will increase total Pell Grant awards by several hundred million dollars.

For students with less well-endowed sources of funding, less money to pay for more pricey credit hours will likely end up cutting them, said Ken Breid, director for the National Association of Student Financial Aid, in an interview with the New York Times. "The way those students will make up the difference is that they'll work more, go to college half-time and work part time," said Breid. "It's not that they won't go to college, I just think they'll take an extra year or two to finish, if they finish at all." Minnick's advice for students who will see cuts in their financial aid is to plan ahead and make a budget before the start of classes.

UCF professors bag over $1 million in research awards

Extra cash meant to keep good teachers from fleeing the university

MIKE RIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in the history of UCF, the faculty members have been recognized by the Board of Trustees and the Trustee Chair awards. Professors Glenn Brown, Henry Daniell, Peter Deloyett, Eduardo Salas and Kay Shamy were nominated by a committee of Provost Gary Whitehouse and President John Hitt. Each recipient was chosen based on his or her outstanding research, teaching and scholarly status in their field.

Each professor receives an annual award of $50,000, which can be renewed each year for a period of five years. The cost of these Trustee Chair appointments, which could total $251 million, will be paid with state funds. The professors can take as much or as little of the endowment as supplemental income.

Brown, a 54-year veteran of UCF, is a professor in the School of Optics/CREOL. He's in charge of the Infrared Systems Laboratory, which specializes in the production and testing of infrared detectors. Earlier this year, Brown was honored with the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Awarded for his efforts with CREOL.

Deloyett, like his colleague Bomer, is also a professor in the School of Optics/CREOL. The thrust of his research is in the field of high-speed fiber optic systems. His success in developing new technology during his decade at UCF is evidenced by the 12 U.S. patents he holds for UCF.

According to Deloyett, the grant will allow for further exploration of new technology in the field of telecommunications.

Daniells award follows world wide media exposure for his work in molecular biology. The Board honored Daniell for creating low-cost vaccines for anthrax and the plague. This and other biotechnology research drew the notice of national and international media. Daniell's work has been profiled on CNN, the British Broadcasting Corporation and in the New York Times.

"He's in charge of making the work being done by UCF's biotech company which he founded. His current project, which seeks to make vaccines and therapeutic proteins available at drastically reduced prices, has attracted multimillion dollar investments from prestigious biotechnology investors and pharmaceutical companies this year," he said.

Salas, unlike his fellow appointees, is not involved with technological or biological areas of study. As a psychology professor, Salas focuses on the field of the human condition. His work in the Institute for Simulation and Training has made UCF one of the premier sources of information for teamwork, research and development.

"IUCF's Distinguished Researcher of 2002, Salas said his nights are set on making UCF the respected world leader in the study and development of teamwork. Shamy was the only woman to receive a Trustee Chair award, is a professor of Industrial engineering and management systems. Her research with human-computer interaction has also earned her the year's award for the College of Engineering and Computer Science's Distinguished Research Lecturer. Her current work could ultimately lead to the end of computer mice and keyboards; she's developing a method of interfacing with computers using the brain directly, translating thoughts into digital signals. The UCP hopes these Trustee Chair awards will help lure prominent professors and researchers, while retaining the many talented and valued staff currently working for the university.

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When Whitehouse announced last fall that he would retire from the administration, a search was begun that ended in May with the selection of Terry Hitt, provost of the University of Akron in Ohio, who formally took over on Tuesday.

Whitehouse quietly stepped out the door of his third-floor office in Millennium Hall June 25, leaving his lifework in the hands of an administrator behind. He has moved up, as he described it, to teaching. Following the passion for industrial engineering that brought him to UCF, Whitehouse will resume a professorship he has missed for 17 years.

Whitehouse said he's confident in Hickey's abilities, which will overcome the challenges of taking on an entirely new staff. "I had the advantage when I came here," Whitehouse said. "I knew everybody. Hickey doesn't know anything about anybody, so he's got a lot of learning to do."

Following a semester-long break, Whitehouse will return to the faculty next spring. He said he wants to leave UCF the way he started it.

"Doctor Whitehouse is so obviously eager to go back to teaching," said Chris Morgan, Whitehouse's assistant for eight years. The provost has been easing his way back into it by working on research with some students.

"He's really enjoyed working with all those students, a group which has made it easier to let him go," Morgan said, adding, "It's been an honor and a privilege to work with someone who I've both liked and respected."

From Page 1
"I have a lot of respect for the openness he has brought into a very very private world," said Huddleston, vice president of Development and Enrollment Services. "I believe he knows about everyone he meets."

Through programs Whitehouse helped start, student retention has jumped from 60 percent to an estimated 80 percent this fall, meaning more students are graduating from UCF, rather than transferring or dropping out.

Inspired by the experience of his daughter at North Carolina State and the suggestions of faculty, Whitehouse started the LEAD scholars program at UCF. The program helps freshmen and sophomores enhance their leadership skills and transition from high school to college.

"He's always been there," said Bill Faulkner, director of Student Leadership Programs. "Ordinarily we're going to miss him in this role. I'm sorry to see him go."

In addition, Whitehouse also earned more and more responsibility. President John Hick's job required him to become familiar with the campus, leading to a shift in control of the university's budget.

The provost's role at universities throughout the nation has changed as much as the same fashion as at UCF. With increasing demands for presidents to be fund-raisers and effective negotiators, more makes in state capitals and in Washington, D.C., the provost's post has become a more powerful and influential one.

During Whitehouse's tenure in that role, enrollment has surged from 25,331 students to about 40,000 today. Ed Neighbors, the vice provost for student administration, said the work that Whitehouse and Hitt have done as a team to keep that growth manageable stands as a lasting achievement, over which other state schools have struggled.

"Most people in the state recognize UCF has been a remarkably successful over the last 10 years, which really makes those jobs of ours extremely fascinating - to see the direct result of all the decisions we're making," Neighbors said.

Whitehouse had a personal commitment to success, one he has shown a concern for faculty that's resulted in a flurry of programs that have endured in his years.

The provost helped spawn the Research Incentive Programs award program, and continued the Teaching Incentive Program despite its demise at the state level. Both programs have won national recognition to UCF's best teachers through awards for performances. The provost have helped give the school's research budget to $75 million annually.

"Those are excellent programs," said Kathy Seidel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Since the state does not routinely give the kind of salary increases that private industry is able to offer our faculty, having the TIP and the RIA has been a wonderful way to give teachers really.

Seidel, who has worked with Whitehouse for 17 years, adds, "Without any question, he's the best boss I've ever had."

The average salary of UCF faculty from when Whitehouse became provost, said Glenn Cunningham, the chairman of the Chemistry Department, Now, "If you look at the average salaries of our faculty we're either one or two in the state," he said.

Whitehouse also helped develop the Provost's Research Enhancement Positions, a program to hire senior research faculty members, further bolstering UCF's push into scientific research for the advancement of his efforts. There was an increased responsiveness to faculty needs - he wanted to know what the problems were and how to fix them," said Ida Cook, a sociology professor.

To advance the expertise of UCF's instructors, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning was also created with help from Whitehouse. The program provided teachers the opportunity to learn more about their profession, through weekly workshops and seminars. Cook, an administrator at the center, said Whitehouse was instrumental in improving faculty relations through such programs.

"I don't think the relationship between the faculty and him could be better," Cunningham said, "We always knew we were talking with a hired. He always listened."

The drive to improve the faculty experience at UCF over some of its strengths to Whitehouse's origin as a member of the faculty himself. Whitehouse came to the university in 1976 as a professor and chairman of the Department of Industrial Engineering. He left behind a tenured position at Lehigh University, a private university in Pennsylvania, for then-named Florida Technological University, at the original two-venue version of University Boulevard.

He offers encouragement to the university's students directly. Following the passion for teaching. Following the passion for teaching.

"There was nothing around campus," Whitehouse said. "There were three, there was a bathtub, a bathtub, there were no restaurants, no houses. It was in the middle of nowhere."

Despite the modest 11,000-student campus in size, Whitehouse found himself as a far more dynamic school than Lehigh, where "things don't change," he said. UCF was a whirlwind, and being a part of the faculty was exciting, he said.

"The first year I was down here, they changed the name of the university, they started football, they went from the quarter-system to the semester system, and they combined the Arts and Sciences College and three other colleges," Whitehouse recalled.

In the early 1980s, Whitehouse started making some changes of his own, pushing for increased use of computers at the school, as microcomputers, the equivalent of modern desktop computers, were becoming popular. In 1988 he returned to the faculty concentrating his work in industrial engineering.

In 1987 Whitehouse took the post of acting dean of the College of Industrial Engineering. He said he had reservations about volunteering for the spot, but after the school failed to find an adequate candidate, he decided to take it, both to help and out and help promote more programs.

Whitehouse impressed the administration with his skill at dealing with the college's faculty and making compromises. After a year, the school offered Whitehouse the permanent post, which he accepted.

From the perspective of a teaching assistant, the influence of an administrator, Whitehouse started accumulating the ideas that he always wanted to do," he said. "I always wanted to teach, to have a better understanding of the students."

In 1985 Whitehouse took a hand in choosing the school's new president, a role that gave him more control over the future of faculty relations than ever before.

Soon after Whitehouse recommended Hitt for the presidency, Hitt returned the favor, appointing Whitehouse as his second in command.

Hitt declined to comment for this story. "I think I was pretty well respected on campus," Whitehouse said. Broad experience in faculty relations - "Being a department chairman to working in the Faculty Senate - plus an interest in subjects running from history to technology helped bolster his resume, he said."

Despite having different personalities, Whitehouse and Hitt complemented each other. "I think he will be a much more involved in the academic side at the beginning," Whitehouse said. As line went on and he built up respect for me, or trust, he started adding things to the job."

Hitt ultimately added student affairs to the provost's domain, a move Whitehouse midds the biggest of his term, further increasing the importance of the provost's office. He estimated that he has cut direct reports to Hitt in half.

"A lot of people were concerned about that, because everybody feels that they want to report as high as possible," Whitehouse said. "The head of the library said 'Oh my God, I'm the only librarian in the world who doesn't report to the president. I'm a little embarrassed.' And I said a year from now, let's sit down and talk about it. If you don't feel you're better off having someone pay attention to you, we'll change it. And she said down with me, and she said, 'You know, you're right.'"
Hitt's pay to stay at $295,000 for now, despite recent cap

From Page 1

would apply to the current presidents once they sign new contracts or extend their current contracts.

The $225,000 freeze would not prevent presidents from making more than $225,000; it only limits the amount of state tax money that can be applied toward a president's salary. Universities can continue to use privately raised funds to pay their presidents as much as they wish.

The law, which was tacked on to the same legislation that raised tuition at a minimum of 8.5 percent last month for Florida's college students, was modeled after Texas legislation that already imposes a cap on presidential salaries.

Sen. Stephen Wise, the former chairman of the Higher Education Appropriations Committee who proposed the bill, said the decision is appropriate at a time when the economy is weak and universities have been dealt severe budget cuts.

"The main, positive effect will be for the university boards to take into consideration the needs of students as a priority and the reason for a university," Wise said. "A university is not a grant employment program; a university is established to train our students for employment."

The cap comes after salary increases last year were approved at Florida universities by governing boards that appeared as if they were trying to outdo one another in presidential raises.

These salary increases took shape after Gov. Bush abandoned the Board of Regents and replaced it with a system that allowed each university to set up its own governing boards of trustees.

Those boards then were made responsible for deciding presidential salaries.

Under the new system, Hitt received a $90,000 hike that boosted his annual salary to $295,000 in January. Following Hitt's raise, University of South Florida President Judy Genshaft and University of Florida President Charlie Young each received raises that boosted their salaries to well over $300,000.

Hitt's 46 percent raise came at the same time when UCF faculty and staff earned a 2.5 percent raise on average. Earlier this month UCF's Board of Trustees also voted to raise out-of-state and graduate student tuition by 15 percent this fall.

"Never would I believe that the very first decision made by the board of trustees at each university would be to provide the university president with a pay raise which ranged from 35 percent to 50 percent, and the next item on the agenda would be to raise the student's tuition 15 percent," Wise said.

"In my opinion, there was a major disconnect between a tremendous raise for the president and a large tuition increase for the students which had a profound effect upon two very important public policy issues," said UCF trustee Geraldine Ferris. "It's not fair to take something out of context and give only a small slice. For example, the lottery — 35 percent goes to education and 65 percent goes to salary and advertising. I think it should be reversed."

"I'm sure the trustees would all love to have some control over what other valuable faculty and staff make, but it's something we have to deal with," she added.

Critics of the salary cap also believe it will hinder the state's ability to attract quality candidates for university presidential positions and produce top-notch universities.

"I don't believe there are any positive points to the legislation other than to hold the market on presidential salaries artificially low," said UCF trustee Thomas Vochum. "If the market demands more salary dollars and the Board of Trustees wants the most qualified candidate, then holding to an artificial cap will give you the lesser-qualified candidate."

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The University of Florida announced two weeks ago that students seeking admission beginning fall of 2006 will have to take a mandatory writing test before they get in. The new requirement stacks atop SAT, GPA and other factors currently considered at UF. UCF officials say they likely will follow suit. The change should be welcomed by English teachers, long inundated by back-to-front term papers, but the test should also benefit every faculty member who requires writing of his or her own students. UCF would be right in implementing such an admissions policy change.

Unfortunately the likelihood that this test will reflect that students in Florida are well prepared for college is less than true would be necessary unless there was a suspicion at universities that writing standards for high school graduation are subpar. Meanwhile for those students graduating in 2006 is that their senior and junior years at high school will be tougher than it was for their older al­lmg to have a much harder time getting into college.

Regardless of the outcome, the need for a test is clear. It is a sensible bias that no obvious or learning in college is the ability to communicate ideas — the even that this type of test exists to measure: if a student can’t write, that student likely can’t speak clearly or process information adequately. Claims that the test will unfairly discriminate against minorities and the impoverished have merit, but only in the broader context that any test designed to find an average will have to be designed for an average American student — a white member of the middle class.

The only way to effectively combat such inher­ent bias is in any materialistically tested, such as the SAT and ACT, is to produce tests for separate seg­ments of the population. A test could be created for rich kids, who should reasonably be expected to have better educations, and a test designed for poor kids, who would likely have lower-quality educations. Using the same analog tests could be produced for different cultures, religions and races. Of course, such an exercise would be far more expensive than designing a national test by which all American stu­dents are judged.

If such a test were left to the county level, though, the precision of the test at measuring the average student would likely improve, as the students in one county would likely have more in com­mon than students from Florida would have with those in another state.

Regardless of the level at which such a test would be administered, there is a clear need for edu­cators to begin sufficiently evaluating American stu­dents’ writing skills to determine whether or not they are in the past.

For too long, the educational system in Florida, and in the United States as a whole, has been in decline — the victim of misguided use of taxpayer money.

While funds that should go into schools are diverted to other critical projects, the select few teach­ers have diminished, while class sizes have increased and educational standards have plummeted.

If this trend continues, students will likely know less and, while classes get larger and teachers get paid less money.

Ultimately, the generations of young Americans being underserved by the public education system will grow up and filter into the workforce. If there is not to be a chance to the workforce unqualified to compete with that of the rest of the world, and American prosperity will be jeopardized.

Equally troubling is the prospect of students usually good enough to attend private schools pushing into the public schools, if those schools don’t begin to catch the American child will be at an even greater disadvantage widening an already large divide between the rich and the middle class in America.

Along with initiatives like the class size amend­ment and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, the new writing requirement will push schools and the lawmakers that ultimately decide funding for schools to reform our educational system.

By choosing the flaws in our students’ educa­tion, we demonstrate the need for improvement. Through comprehensive tests, we can uncover prec­isions we are doing from public education.

Ultimately these kinds of reforms can save our public schools.

Oppnions

Wednesday July 2, 2003

OUR STANCE:

Writing requirement is a needed step

L}ongtime UCF provost Gray Whitehouse stepped down last week, after nine years on the job. That’s an almost unprecedented term for a provost. He held that post for so long because he knew what was happening at UCF was important, and he owed it to the school to stay. He watched the student population nearly double during his term. UCF has grown from a mini­mized school to the big leagues, competing with the University of Florida and Florida State. He has helped the most essential research facilities and built the campus’ prestige both in Florida and nationally.

Since entering the administration 21 years ago, Whitehouse has maintained an interest in helping teachers, while giving students more tools to succeed and graduate. He’s now helping implement a list of programs and policies long enough that it will likely never be repeated under the watch of any provost. As any teacher at heart, he’s never forgotten why he’s here — to help students learn. He said he wanted to know UCF the way he’d be started, and he’s going to get his wish. He’s going back to teaching for a couple of years, he said. Then he’ll leave a final legacy.

Newly appointed Provost Terry Hickey has inherited a daunting legacy. As long as he keeps the teachers and students in mind, though, UCF’s future will stay bright.

I disagree with the way you say it, but I defend to death your right to say it. —-ALBERT EINSTEIN
Flying the flag of fiscal responsibility

BY MIKE RIEGEL

I hate it when my column is overtaken by anti-American demons. Let me assure you that the opinions expressed in this column can be attributed directly to un-American trolls that live under bridges and eat children.

With my attempt at a clever disclaimer thankfully behind us, I'd like to say that American flags should not be mounted in all of UCF's classrooms. Now that I've expressed my view, I'm prepared to be tarred and feathered. I know it's not Friday yet, but I was hoping to get a jump on this weekend's chicken fetish parade in downtown Orlando.

Rebuilding on a Conservative Kernelstone (ROCK), a conservative organization on campus, has pitched the idea to mount flags in each classroom at UCF. Honestly, I don't see anything wrong with ROCK's patriotic suggestion — except for the $8,000 to $10,000 price tag. I'm asking student government for.

I know you're all asking, how could someone who loves America as much as I do possibly say such an offensive thing about the most enduring symbol our nation has to offer? It's surprisingly easy — because, well, flags don't help anyone learn.

I see the symbolism behind it — we live in America, and this university is proud to be a part of America. But do I need a flag in the classroom to remind me that UCF is a part of America? Not really.

I pass walk through any parking lot on campus and see millions of American flags covering our foreign cars. What I need is a flag in class that reminds me about the assignment due in a couple days.

And there's at least one other serious consideration in this flag discussion — UCF's community of international students. I'm sure most of them don't have a problem with the American flag, considering that they left their native lands to study here. But why shouldn't they be allowed to display their flag as well if we're hanging American flags in every classroom?

It seems fair, doesn't it? International students are proud of their heritage, and they're just as important to the UCF community as any American student. Since students from UCF represent hundreds of countries around the world, I say we display all of those flags in every classroom, such as Canada's flag of a man playing hockey and eating maple syrup and Mexico's flag of uh, whatever's in Mexico.

The newly decorated classrooms will make going to class no much more fun, except for color-blind people — they haven't caught a break since black and white TV.

The members of ROCK need to realize that with UCF facing severe budget cuts, this money could serve a greater purpose.
The withdrawal from an Association increases in its budget, affording organization Hurricanes to hold onto the former national Conference. According to reports, the Big East was frustrated making offers in an effort to keep its long-time, indeed, join the Atlantic Conference.  

Miami Athletic Director Paul Doe said the decision was based on "the future security of the athletic program." He continued: "This is a decision for a long period of time, not a short time. The most difficult is the withdrawal from an organization we belonged to since 1991. We enjoyed our time there. We enjoyed our success."

Now that Miami has announced it will accept the ACC’s bid, what will UCF, USF, and Louisville do?
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Catch some rerun football action on Sunshine

FROM PAGE 10

At Happy Valley was the largest to ever witness the Knights in action.

The network devoted to Florida sports already has rehired the offensive MAC manpower that was last season's biggest addition to Western Michigan. The Knights and Broncos pouted each other in the 31-27 UCF victory, which helped the offensive dominance of quarterback Ryan Schneider. The next game replay will be UCF's handling of Miami of Ohio in Oxford. The Knights beat their MAC Eastern Division foe 40-21. That game will be replayed at noon on Saturday and again at 2:00 a.m. Monday for Knight fans.

Apology turns into good football fun

Newspapers had some fun this past week with a joke chipped from UCF Head Football Coach Mike Kruczek.

The Charleston Gazette's Doug Smoak summarized the new era thus:

Chances are the Knights will never return to the 1990s. And if they do, it's only in the movies. Former self. The remaining Catch-90 films have only positive words for the Schneider before it was ruled incomplete. For fun, thanks to the dominance games laid in the 1990s, already has rebroadcast stereotypes, but closed with and Marshall and Doug Roach.

The Central Florida Future.

The decision to catch into question the character of these two new ACC powers. Did Virginia Tech play the role of the hypocrisies? The Hokies stood by the lawsuit (fled by the Big East Conference when the ACC initially targeted Miami, Boston College and South Carolina) when Tech later received its own invitation. The Hokies felt without hesitation.

Has Miami's greed destroyed the conference that was held by the Hurriones through the program's struggle and turmoil? Miami was notorious in the 1990s for all sorts of repressible activity, but the Big East continued to house them and helped them back to national dominance.

Whereupon is said about what these two schools have done. It doesn't mean a thing to UCF, Ohio State or any true fan.

The case of these teams leaves the once prosperous and feared conference a shell of its former self. The remaining schools -- West Virginia, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Boston College and Connecticut -- are widely respected and have won their fair share of championships, but they are not the Hurricanes or Huskies.

Seven teams do not, in any manner warrant this conference's spot in the Bowl Championship Series. Indeed, the Big East's wee could become worse if the crumbling Conference USA decides to jump on the Big East's sudden weaknesses. CUSA members Louisville, East Carolina, South Florida, Cincinnati and Memphis all have been mentioned as possible replacements for Miami and Virginia Tech, but UCF is not just as easily hold onto their schools and instead go after the aforementioned teams.

That scenario, however, is unlikely: CUSA is already dealing with negative press from the failing programs of Alabama Birmingham, Houston and Tulsa. UAB in particular is confronting a rape charge and a civil lawsuit filed against the football program, ball, playing doctors, and coaches, and the media.

Since the leukemia diagnosis, the household went public two weeks later. The Central Florida Future reported last week by UCF's best football player in the 1990s.

Florida's rebel. and it doesn't do whatever is needed.

The Knights' schedule over the next four years features matchups against four SEC teams: Tennessee, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Moreover, the ACC is likely hunting for its first real team. The Knights' schedule against SEC schools will leave the conference at 11 teams. A 12th team would allow the conference to split into two divisions and host a conference championship game once.

Would the ACC consider the Knights opening the 2003 football season against the Hokies. Over the next five years, the SEC will face ACC competitors North Carolina State, Clemson and Miami. And the SEC is likely to be more impressive fighters in the past against becoming a conference.

However, that scenario is improbable. Look the ACC's second best football team will face ACC competitors North Carolina State, Clemson and Miami. And the SEC is likely to be more impressive fighters in the past against becoming a conference.

Whatever the results, the Knights will still face a formidable opponent after their first round game. The ACC) and expanded to a national championship (Tulane, along with Texas Christian, is being considered for an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference.)

Given the turmoil and continued interest by the Big East needs to jump on whichever schools it can right away.

The American Football Commissioners Rick Christy has said he will do whatever is necessary to get UCF in the new future. Only the ACC football team conferences in the conference; the school's other athletic teams all compete in the Athletic Sun Conference. This kind of spreading to all that UCF needs to do to its competitiveness.

The Central Florida Future's future is looking to dispose of perennial punching bag Vanderbilt and pick up another real team. That AC is an outstanding solution.

To expand its 12th team. A 12th team would allow the conference to split into two divisions and host a conference championship game once. All of this spells more money.

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Thursday, July 3
6th Annual Fall Hot and Burn
All fans, local and international, will have the chance to see an array of bands and buy and sell items of any kind.
4:30 p.m., 407-571-8863.

Friday, July 4
June Grease In Batio
Celebrate Freedom's birthday with a rock band lineup that features bands like the Bluegrass Brothers and the West Virginia Southern Boys. The show starts at 8 p.m., 407-999-2570.

Saturday, July 5
West at Stones: 20th Anniversary Party
This is a must-see event for fans of all ages. The lineup features bands like the Dirty Dozens and the Native Americans. The show starts at 9 p.m., 407-839-3900.

Monday, July 7
Vex and Rolly exhibit
The exhibit features a collection of over 1,000 antique maps and prints.
9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 407-839-3900.

Tuesday, July 8
Killer Prett at The Stone
The band is known for their unique sound and has been a favorite of fans for years. The show starts at 9 p.m., 407-839-3900.

Wednesday, July 9
Stand and head at We Are Live
The band is known for their catchy tunes and energetic performances. The show starts at 8 p.m., 407-839-3900.

Online auction sites can yield big bucks
Student entrepreneurs use eBay.com to make some extra money on the side
Brandon Hardin
Staff Writer
Zachary Long knows that it doesn't take a business major to see the value in online auction sites. Some basic computer skills and a little money can make a difference.
"I've made about $500. That's a conservative estimate," said the 21-year-old senior and eBay entrepreneur.
Amongst online auction sites, eBay is the largest, selling 17 million items in more than 150 categories at any given moment. Last year alone, eBay users performed in excess of $4 billion in transactions.
Long, a hospitality major, has been an eBay user since December 1999. With about 200 transactions, Long is a veteran of the eBay community. He constantly buys items he sees as being undervalued and then tries to resell them for a profit.
"It's an open market. You're on equal footing with everyone else," Long said of the opportunity on eBay.
Long typically bids and auctions off video games for the Nintendo and Super Nintendo systems because he finds their market value seldom changes. This stability helps him calculate what makes a good buy and what will ensure a profit.
With thousands of online games up for auction, finding a good deal can be difficult.

Hookah water pipe called pleasing — or smoke screen
Lisa Black
Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO — Despite notorious links to the drug culture, the hookah is enjoying a whiff of mainstream popularity as college students flock to new cafes, where it's become trendy to spend the evening puffing on the exotic water pipes.
Concerns about the danger of smoking have not dampened the appeal of restaurants like Evanston's (Ill.) Cade Hookah, which shares dozens of fruity tobacco blends in a revivification of a centuries-old Middle Eastern tradition.
"It's neat because it's ancient," said Luke Griffiths, 20, a Northwestern University student from Altavista, Ill. "You can sit here and imagine not being in yuppie Evanston but in Turkey.
Nationwide, health officials are worried about the trend, saying the hookah hangers popping up across the country are just another way to entice young people to smoke. And federal customs officials concerned that water pipes are still used to smoke hashish and marijuana bluntly warn they view them with a wary eye.
Although not specifically targeted in U.S. drug laws, the hookah could be deemed illegal under federal drug paraphernalia prohibitions if used to smoke illicit substances, officials said. The smaller "water bongs," a similar pipe also famed for drug use, are outlawed.
"From the tobacco-control perspective, this is just another clever, devious manipulation of people's social desires," said Peter Jacobson, associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. "To see this as anything other than a gateway back to cigarette smoking is very naive.
The hookah's growing popularity and link to the drug culture has caused a whiff of anxiety for some. Concerns about the drug culture, the link to the drug culture, the hookah has been causing a stir everywhere.
"I don't think it's a good idea," said Speaking about the hookah's growing popularity and link to the drug culture, the hookah has been causing a stir everywhere.
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the market simply as a way to get consistent profit, "Tumasso uses the popularity, however to which video you don't have. Long—also takes

"The injection of salivary fluid or venom to the skin provides a small, itchy welt that lasts a few hours or days.

To relieve discomfort, rub an ice cube, cold washcloth, calamine lotion or over-the-counter hydrocortisone ointment over the bite.

For people who are allergic to insect or spiders, the bites can cause severe trauma or life-threatening events, such as difficulty breathing and intense swelling, and should be treated by a physician.

Spider bites are seldom fatal except those of the black widow or brown recluse species, whose symptoms include swelling at the site of the bite, lasting, burning, numbness or tingling.

If you find a tick embedded in your skin, remove it with tweezers or gloved finger and be careful not to crush it. Species of ticks can cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever or Lyme disease. To prevent insect bites, DEET is the most effective insect repellent, as natural products tend to be less reliable.

E-mail your questions to: Askdoc@email.ucf.edu

eBay lets students sell to a nation-wide market

FROM PAGE 14

Long searches eBay for video games that are sold in sets, because he finds the games to be worth more when he buys them individually. He also looks for games that are priced in error.

Since eBay is a microcosm of an open market, wise prospector can make a large amount of money. In 2002, Long sold a single set of $2,000 selling Yu-Gi-Oh! cards by predicting their popularity.

Just like an open market, though, crashes do occur.

Long once sold a bundle of cards—good for $20 at a card while the market value of the card on eBay was $700 each. After the transcription, eBay became flooded with other auctioners of the same card and its value fell to $3.

"I felt really bad for him," Long said.

Long never bothers to sell cards or videogames to local stores—the huge eBay audience allows him to reach people in rural areas and make more money than local merchants would pay.

"I'm eBayian, you can sell to the whole nation instead of just Orlando," he said. "We get a lot more money that way. If you don't live in a major metropolitan area, you don't have access to the stuff you do here.

Long also takes advantage of eBay's feedback system, which allows bidders to rate auctioneers. "The feedback system gives you more credibility," he said.

Long says that his online trading normally goes smoothly; however he deals with the occasional impatient consumer or customer that doesn't pay.

Junior Christopher Tumasso, a 21-year-old information technology major has a different approach to eBay auctioning. He sells items that don't really exist.

Tumasso uses PlayStation2.com, a site that handles online computer games, to auction off virtual money from the online game EverQuest. "I'm liquidating all the stuff I collected while playing the game," he said.

So far, he's made about $5,000.

While Sony prohibits the selling of EverQuest-related items, Tumasso said nothing wrong with auctioning his virtual proceeds to help other players. "I basically want a little back for the time wasted playing the game," he said. "I was getting $13 an hour from me for a few years. I feel entitled to some money back.

Though some people use EverQuest auctioning to turn a consistent profit, Tumasso sees the market simply as a way to get rid of things he no longer uses, and to make a little money in the process.

Online auctioning is very easy, Long says. "It's all dusted down. Anyone can do it."

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Hard Rock Live summer concert series an MTV hit

Mackenzie O'Bannon
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Madonna's song lyrics: "Music, brings the people, together..." can easily be applied to what's happening all summer long at Hard Rock Live, Orlando at Universal Studios CityWalk.

Attracting Orlando's diverse music crowd with $10 tickets and the chance to be on national television, Hard Rock Live continues to generate a house in its joint efforts with MTV this month, beginning with the June 17 show featuring the Ataris and has really captured the reggae industry, and I'm like a kid in a candy store waiting to see what he does on stage.

I love Sean Paul. He has really captured the reggae industry, and I'm like a kid in a candy store waiting to see what he does on stage.

—Ashlee Beckham, 25, student Tracy Jans, 25, and save another $5!

UCF Alumni, 25

Music lovers can see their favorite acts for only $10

from parents to business owners to college students, fans of the Ataris and Good Charlotte packed the 3,000-seat venue, sporting anything from black and plaid to barely clad in hopes of catching a glimpse of their favorite band or the chance to scream on TV.

Cameras swooped above and panned the crowd of tireless concertgoers as the Ataris rocked their remake of Bryan Adams' hit, "Heaven," and fans sang along to Good Charlotte's headlining set with latest singles, "The Young and the Hopeless" and "Girls & Boys."

"I thought the show was awesome," said Good Charlotte fan and UCF student Tracey Ludwig, 21. "I was really surprised that we got two hours worth of concert for only $10."

Music fans once again filled up the floor at Hard Rock Live for reggae supper Sean Paul's concert tapping the following night.

Jamaican flags peppered the sold-out crowd on the floor level while teenage girls screamed and danced in their balconies seats.

Feeling under the weather, Sean Paul was ordered by his doctor not to perform. But the singer shrugged off the suggestion and energetically performed over an hour's worth of songs, including "Gimme the Light" and "Get Busy."

"I love Sean Paul," UCF alum Ashlee Beckham, 25, said. "He has really captured the reggae industry, and I'm like a kid in a candy store waiting to see what he does on stage."

As cameras zoomed in on Paul's provocative dance moves, fans swayed to his dancehall rhythms, some even forming their own dance circles on the floor to flaunt their skills.

Over the next few weeks, MTV tapings atHard Rock Live Orlando will feature acts including Staind on July 9 and Queens of the Stone Age on August 6. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster or at Hardrocklive.com.

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Hookah-use health effects unknown

The Los Angeles-based company got its start seven years ago on Venice Beach, where its founder displayed 10 water pipes on a blanket, general manager Ahmad Roushdy said. Today the company sells hookah paraphernalia to about 100 cafes and outlets, he said.

In Ann Arbor, Mich., the Rendezvous Cafe near the University of Michigan began offering the water pipes two months ago. Patrons may also access the Internet on such computers.

"Usually it's not the (euphemistic) smokers who like hookah," Rendezvous manager Jami Hampshire said. "Just certain people. You get used to it, like cigarettes."

In the United States, young smokers don't always realize that hookahs have been associated with lung malignancies since the 1950s and 1960s — a fact that escapes few among the middle-aged.

"I still get people who walk past me and say, 'What is that?' and 'What are you smoking?"' Hampshire said. "The older generation, they have a big smile on their face.'"

Health officials are skeptical about claims of reduced nicotine and tar with water pipes, although they admit that little research has been done on the effects of hookah smoking, especially in the United States, where they are just noticing the trend.

But they point to a small number of medical studies in the Middle East that have concluded smoking water pipes elevates carbon monoxide levels and increases the risks for runners and low birth weights. They say the nicotine inhaled is significant enough to cause addiction.

"It's not safe. The potential for addiction is very high and the health effects of the long term are not something to settle off and say it's not a big deal," said Dr. Thomas Houston, a director with the American Medical Association in Chicago.

People who grew up in the Middle Eastern countries where hookahs are part of the culture say they don't understand the big deal. Canan Ugur, a Northwestern student from Turkey, spends nearly every evening at the Rendezvous cafe with other international students, drinking coffee, nipping sandwichs and sharing a hookah.

"It reminds me of home," Ugur said. "We spent our Thanksgiving there."
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