Patricia Xavier

**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. UF officials are likely to follow UF's lead and adopt a similar writing requirement, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

An essay 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 900, 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 1190-1360. 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.

Alex Leibrandt, a senior at Winter Springs High School, plans to attend UF 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 Leibrandt, 17. "I definitely want to go to UF, but I'm just an all-right writer. I'm not ready to take a writing test, and high school hasn't really prepared me for that kind of test."
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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 proper essay organization. These are the skills that enable people to communicate ideas across regional, cultural, generational and disciplinary differences.

Laffranchi said preparing students for college-level English and writing "should start in high school; without it, students aren't 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 admissions standards move further away from students' academic skills.

Critics of the SATs and ACTs say that like the SATs, this form of testing can be racially and economically biased.

"English professor Dan Jones objects to such tests, saying, "All kinds of tests have a potential for bias, but this is level."

I'm happy to see this additional emphasis on writing skills. Writing skills are typically under-emphasized and undervalued. In general, students are "coming to college with weak writing skills," Jones said.

A new writing test at UCF would first, he said, demonstrate a trend toward, and not be required for admission, said Tom Huddleston, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Services.

While professors who have been writing for this type of test continue to add their support, UCF has yet to formally adopt a writing test.

"The collection 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 employers for professional positions require some type of writing sample, overly or built upon 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 tens of 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 rented 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 soon coming out of the building by a resident, who then kicked in the door to the apartment when the fire started, saw the flames and called 911.

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. While 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. Inter-Fraternity Council President Ryan O'Rourke said.

Smoke detectors

How a smoke detector functions and safety precautions

How they function.

Smoke detectors are devices that alert you when smoke enters the home or apartment. They can warn you of any fire or even a cooking mishap. In general, smoke detectors are divided into three categories: ionization, photoelectric and photoionization.

Smoke detectors are either of the ionization type or the photoelectric type. Ionization detectors are installed inside home or apartment and are wired to smoke detectors in other parts of the house. Photoelectric detectors are concerned with light and heat and are often used in high-risk areas. Photoionization detectors are designed to detect the presence of particular combustible gases. A combination of different types of smoke detectors is recommended to provide the maximum protection.

Safety. It is recommended that all households have at least one smoke detector per floor. Batteries should be replaced every 10 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 installed in the last 10 years in the U.S. are wired together to interconnect motion. This sort of wiring guarantees that if one alarm is in the home sound, they all go off.

The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house was damaged by a fire in the late hours of June 24. Two apartments in the building were destroyed.

ALEX BRANDON / AFP

FRATERNITY HOUSE FIRE SPARKED BY WATER HEATER
As tuition rises, financial aid may plummet

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 awards and scholarships and loans may go unanswered by the recent tuition hike, many recipients of federal grants will soon see a decreased payout, making the grants less than their income and their tuition even wider.

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 is submitted on a timely basis," said Minnick. "[Students] should assess their financial aid package to determine if they need to apply for other loans and scholarships."

In addition to the tuition rise, 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 families that have an annual income of $50,000 to shoulder additional $1,500 of the cost of college. Those with an income of $80,000 will have to pay an additional $9,000. 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 left with less- endowed sources of funding, less money to pay for more pricey credit hours will likely end up tacking them, said Ken Bedd, 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."

"It’s not that they won’t go to college. I’ll just take them 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 given Trustee Chair awards.

Professors Glenn Boreman, Henry Daniels, Peter Deloff, Eduardo Salas and Kay Stanney were nominated by a committee of Pension Professors and affirmed by 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 $125 million, will be paid for with state funds. The professors can tap as much as half of the endorsement as supplemental income.

Boreman, a 58-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, Boreman was honored with the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award for his efforts with CREOL.

Deloff, like his colleague Boreman, 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 Deloff, the grant will allow for further exploration of new technology in the field of telecommunications.

Salas was honored David for establishing local cost vaccines for anthrax and the plague. This and other biotechnology research drew the notice of national and international media — Daniels’ work has been profiled on CNN, the British Broadcasting Corporation and the New York Times.

"He said he’s looking forward to using the money to supplement 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 dramatically reduced prices, has attracted multimillion-dollar investments from prestigious biotechnology investors and pharmaceutical companies this fall," he said.

Salas, unlike his fellow appointees, is not bashed with technological or biological areas of study. As a psychology professor, Salas focuses on the field of human condition.

His work in the Institute for Simulation and Training has made UCF one of the premier sources for information for teamwork, research and development.

As UCF’s Distinguished Researcher of 2002, Salas said his work is set on making UCF the recognized world leader in the study and development of teamwork.

Stanney, the only woman to receive a Trustee Chair award, is a professor of Industrial engineering and management systems. Her research with human-centered computing has also earned her this year’s award for the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s Distinguished Research Lecturer.

Her current project would ultimately lead to the end of computer mice and keyboards; she’s developing a method of interacting with computers using the brain directly, translating thoughts into digital signals.

UCF hopes these Trustee Chair awards will help lure prominent professors and researchers, while retaining the best, most needed and valuable staff currently working for the university.

MIA FISHBAUM STAFF WRITER

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UCF's retention up since Whitehouse started

FROM PAGE 1

"I have a lot of respect for the openness he has brought into a very closed system," said Huddleston, vice president of Development and Enrollment Services. "I believe he cares about everyone he meets."

Through programs Whitehouse helped start, student retention has jumped from 60 percent to an estimated 60 percent this fall, more seniors 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."

Whitehouse, a psychologist, also earned more and more responsibility President John Hitt’s job required him to become the university’s representative on campuses, leading to a shift in control of student life.

The provost’s role at universities throughout the nation has changed because of such new품 as at UCF. With increasing demands for presidents to helm fundamentally different operations, provosts make in state capitals and in Washington, D.C., the provost’s post has become more powerful and influential.

During Whitehouse’s tenure in that role, enrollment has surged from 25,531 students to about 40,000 today. Ed Neighbor, 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 failed to duplicate.

"Most people in the state recognize UCF has been 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," Neighbor said.

Whitehouse had a personal comment on the success, having shepherded two of his children through college and seen his wife get a Ph.D. He also showed a concern for faculty staff’s result of a flow of programs that have benefited from his peers.

The provost helped spawn the Research Incentive Awards program, and continued the Teaching Incentive Program despite its demise at the state level. Both programs give money and recognition to UCF’s best teachers through awards for performance. The provost’s office has helped give the school’s research budget to $75 million yearly.

"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 are needed to attract and retain the kind of faculty we need, tapping the TTIP and the RIA has been a wonderful way to give teachers really.

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

The average salary of UCF faculty has risen since 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 after 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 helping UCF’s push into scientific research.

"He was one of his efforts," Cunningham said. "There was an increased responsibility to faculty needs — he wanted to know what the problems were and how to fix them," said Mike Cook, a sociology professor.

To advance the expertise of UCF’s instructors, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning also was 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. "He always knew we were talking with a friend. He always listened." The drive to improve the faculty experience at UCF owes some of its strength 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, the original two-lane version of University Boulevard. His colleagues called him a risk-taker for going.

"There was nothing around except campus," Whitehouse said. "There were castles, there was citrus, a two-lane highway, there were no restaurants, no houses it was in the middle of nowhere." Despite the modest 11,000 student campus size, Whitehouse found himself as a far more dynamic school than Lehigh, where "things don’t change much," Cunningham 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 fielding, they went from the quarter-system to the semester system, and they combined the Arts and Sciences College and three other colleges," Whitehouse recollected.

"It was a lot of people were concerned about that, because everybody feels that they want to report as high as possible," Whitehouse said. "This 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.’ And if you don’t feel you’re better off having someone pay attention to you, just change it. And she said down with me, and she said, ‘You know, you’re right.’"

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

Whitehouse quietly slipped out the door of his third-floor office in Millennium Hall June 25, leaving his life as 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, who 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, vice president of the 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 the students, 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’s been both liked and respected.

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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 tucked 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 House 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 giant employer 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 sidestep one another in presidential raises.

These salary increases took shape after then-Gov. Jeb 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 $50,000 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 presidents with a pay raise which ranged from 5 percent to 10 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 presidents and a large tuition increase for the students which had a profound effect upon two very important public policy issues," Bright Futures and the Prepaid College Program, he added.

Although Hitt's salary will not be affected by the cap, some are calling the limit counter-productive.

"The Board of Regents had not been fair on the percentage of [salary] increase to Dr. Hitt, based on his performance," said UCF trustee Geraldine Ferris. "It's not fair to take something out of context and give only a small, little segment. 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 this 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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Our Stance:

Writing requirement is a needed step

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. UF officials say they likely follow suit. The change should be welcomed by English teachers, long inundated by lunchperiod term papers; but the test should also benefit every faculty member who requires writing of his or her own students. UF 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 clear than it could be, necessary unless there was a suspicion at universities that writing standards for high school graduation are subpar. What this means for students graduating in 2006 is that their senior and senior years at high school will be tougher than it was for their older all­
Bings, or they’re learning in the broader context that any test designed to build the campus’ prestige both 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 be going to schools are channelled into critical projects, the selections of 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 underestimated by the public education system will grow up and filter into the workforce. If they lack the skills their parents have, this will only add to a workforce unqualified to compete with that of the rest of the world, and American prosperity will be in jeopardy.

Equally troubling is the prospect of students used to attending private schools pulling away in the race to the job market. If America’s taxes can’t build an educational system to rival that of private schools, the average American child will be in an even greater disadvantage widening an already large divide between the rich and the middle class in America.

Along with initiatives like the state class Adam­
Dent 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’ educational systems, we demonstrate the need for improvement.

Through comprehensive tests, we can uncover areas that are being dismissed from public education. Ultimately these kinds of reforms can save our public schools.

Our Stance:

Provost Whitehouse bows to his heart

Long-time UF provost Gary Whitehouse stepped down last week, after nearly 20 years on the job. That is an almost unprece­dented term for a provost. He held that post for so long because he knew what was happening at UF was important, and he owed it to the school to stay.

He watched the student population nearly double during his term. UF has grown from a two­
sized school to the big University of Florida and beyond. He said he learned a lot from his experiences as provost, and that he will keep the teachers and students in mind, though, UCF’s future will stay bright.

I disagree with what you say, but I defend to death your right to say it.
Flying the flag of fiscal responsibility

ON THE MIC

Mike Riegel
Staff Writer

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 salad parade in downtown Orlando.

Rebuilding Our Conservative Cornerstone (ROCK), a conservative organization on campus, has pitched the idea to mount flags in every 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. It's asking student government for money you're all supposed to be earning.

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 patriotic 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 ram playing hockey and 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.
Decisions, decisions, decisions

Now that Miami has announced it will accept the ACC’s bid, what will UCF, USF, and Louisville do?

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

New budget approved by UCF athletic committee

Acting on a plan that was long overdue, the UCF Athletics Association has approved a massive $6.8 million athletic budget, the bulk of which will go to increasing coaches’ salaries.

UCF joined an elite group of schools when the Athletic Association was created and is waiting no time in proving how necessary that step was.

The budget represents a $2.1 million increase from 2002 and is helped in part by the recent boost in student athletic fees, as well as the pattern of increasing enrollment.

UCF’s Athletic Association should continue to see annual increases in its budget, adhering to the opportunity to make strides in everything from increasing football ticket sales to moving all UCF sports into a strong national conference.

Alternative fundraising sought for new arena

UCF Athletics Director Steve Orlando is seeking corporate sponsors to help raise funds for a planned 10,000-seat, $70 million campus arena.

That push became more urgent after the Florida Legislature said no to a proposal that would have called for a special session to consider the state budget.

While he won’t announce which companies Orlando already has in talks with two companies about corporate sponsorship, he said those backers sign on, UCF would have the coliseum it needs to build against to get the new arena started.

UCF hopes the new arena will help attract all-sports conference invitations, allowing the school’s athletic teams to compete in a single major conference. Currently the football team is a member of the Mid-American Conference, while UCF’s other teams compete in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The currently shifting allegiances in NCAA conferences have raised the possibility that UCF may join a conference with a higher national profile.

Current plans call for groundbreaking on the arena to start this fall, with construction completed by 2006.

UCF vs. Penn State part II

Knights’ fans will not have to wait until 2006 for the weightier reminder of last year’s football season opener.

UCF and Penn State have reached an agreement to play again on Sept. 18, 2004. The rematch would be the third game of the 2004 season for the Knights, who open next year’s season at Wisconsin and come back home to face West Virginia.

UCF fans were treated to a heartbreak last fall, as the Knights fell to the Nittany Lions 27-14 in front of 101,020 people. The stadium crowd
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Kappa Sigma knocks Sigma Chi off dodgeball throne

Atlantic Coast Conference Main events in the ACC's history.

Atlantic Coast Conference

Milestones of the ACC

1953: Florida State admitted to ACC
1954: Virginia Tech in what becomes the ACC's newest super conference.

The Hurricanes student section seemed to be the deciding seven minutes.

1955: Miami accepted to ACC
1956: ACC's 50th anniversary

1957: ACC's 60th anniversary

Kappa Sigma knocks Sigma Chi off dodgeball throne

The competition got off to quick

solution for the Big East is to match forward. Extend an

invitation to UCF, Temple, and others from

Florida, Louisville, East Carolina and Cincinnati. Those

programs would bring the conference one into of the largest and youngest in the

Big East, creating a conference full of teams that are

fired up for the Big East.

But the Big East needs to hurry. And there's a chance of

competition from more than just the USA.

Still alive are rumors that the Southeastern Conference is looking to dispose of perennial punching bag Vanderbilt and pick up another real team. Louisville would seem to be the perfect candidate. But UCF and UAB were told outside.

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

Moreover, the ACC is likely hunting for its next three teams. The ACC's

recent decisions only leave the conference with 11 teams.

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

money.

Would the ACC consider adding UCF, UAB and Coastal Carolina to the

2003 football season against the Hokies. Over the next five years, the ACC will face ACC competitors North Carolina State, Clemson and Miami. And the Hokies will face ACC teams like UAB in impressive fights in the past against

Clemson and Florida State.

However, that scenario is

improbable. Look for the ACC to

still face ACC competitors North Carolina State, Clemson and Miami. And the Hokies will face ACC teams like UAB in impressive fights in the past against

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Hookah water pipe called pleasing — or smoke screen

LISA BLACK
CHICAGO-THRUMS (KTR)

CHICAGO—Despite notorious links to the drug culture, the hookah is enjoying a whirlwind 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 Evaston's (Ill.) Cafe Hookah, which offers shisha of fruity tobacco blends in a rekindling of a centuries-old Middle Eastern tradition.

"It's neat because it's ancient," said Luke Griffiths, 20, a Northwestern University student from Altona, Ill. "You can sit here and imagine not being in yuppie Evaston but in Turkey.

Nationally, health officials are worried about the trend, saying the hookah habitués popping up across the country are just another way to entice young people to smoke. And federal customs officials confirmed that water pipes are still used to smoke hashish and marijuanas 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 perversion 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 is difficult to measure, but at least 250 to 300 new hookah houses have opened throughout the United States in the last three to five years, according to industry estimates. Dozens are concentrated in California, where states such as New York and New Jersey have laws banning the devices.

The revival of the water pipe as a so-called pastime is new to the Midwest — at least among the youthful crowds visiting Cafe Hookah, which opened in October.

In countries such as Lebanon or Syria, where smoking is forbidden in public places, water pipes have existed for hundreds of years and are often passed around in large groups. In the United States, the trend has spread throughout the country, especially in urban areas.

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 — just some basic computer skills and a little money sense.

"I've made about $5,000. 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 15,000 categories at any given moment. Last year alone, eBay users performed over 814 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.

"I 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 an equal playing field with everyone else," Long said of the opportunity on eBay.

Long typically lists and aucions off old videogames for the Nintendo and Super Nintendo systems because he finds their market value seldom changes. This stability lets him calculate what makes a good buy and what will ensure a profit line.

With thousands of online games up for auction, finding a good deal can be difficult.

Please see Hookah on 17
The majority of insect bites are no cause for alarm. Bites coming from most spiders, fleas, flies, bedbugs or chiggers will look the same and are benign. The injection of salivary fluid or venom to the skin provokes a small, itchy bump 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, itching, 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: Askadoc@mail.ucf.edu

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**Ask a doc**

Nhung Tran, MD  
UF St. Vincent Family Medicine

**What should I do if I notice I have an insect bite?**

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**eBay lets students sell to a nation-wide market**

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

Since eBay is a microcosm of an open market, wise prospectors can make a large amount of money. In 2002, Long saved $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 to a customer for $99 a card, while the market value of the card on eBay was $20 each. After the transaction, eBay became flooded with other auctioners of the same card and its value fell to $8.

"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.

"If you're alypaugh, 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 now."

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.

"Sony was a little mad at me," he said. "I basically went to the computer games. It was a bad month for me for a few weeks. I feel entitled to some money back."

While Sony prohibits the selling of EverQuest-related items, Tomasso said nothing wrong with mentioning his virtual proceeds to help other players. "I basically want a little back for the time I've spent playing the game," he said. "Sony was getting $55 a month from me for a few years. I feel entitled to some money back."

Though some people use EverQuest auctioning to earn a consistent profit, Tomasso 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 done down. Anyone can do it."

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Hard Rock Live summer concert series an MTV hit

Music lovers can see their favorite acts for only $10

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.

Attraction: Orlando's diverse music crowd with $10 tickets and the chance to be on national television, Hard Rock Live continues to generate a full house in its joint efforts with MTV and AT&T to produce a taped summer concert series.

The concerts will air on MTV this month, beginning with the June 17 show featuring punk rockers the Ataris and Good Charlotte. From parents to businessmen to preteens to college students, fans of the Ataris and Good Charlotte packed the 3,000-seat venue, sporting anything from black and plaid to bare-chested in hopes of catching a glimpse of their favorite band or the chance to scream on TV.

Cameras swept above and panned the crowd of tireless concertgoers as the Ataris rocked their remake of Bryan Adam's hit, "Two Days in Summer," 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 Tracy Ludwig. "I 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 super 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 "Gymnastics" and "Get Busy."

"I love Sean Paul," UCF alumnus 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 Soca rhythms, some even forming their own dance circles on the floor to flaunt their skills.

Over the next few weeks, MTV tapings at Hard 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.
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 Ahmed Roushdy said. Today the company sells hookah paraphernalia to about 100 cafes and outlets, he said.

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

"Usually it's not the (eigenten) smokers who like hookah," Tenderness Cafe manager Jamil Hamady said. "It's 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 using marulas since the 1960s and 1970s — a fact that escapes few among the middle-aged set.

"I still get people who walk past me and say, 'What is that?' and 'What are you smoking?'" Hamady 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 over the long term are not something to settle off and say it's not the bad stuff," 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 Koonce cafe with other international students, drinking coffee, nibbling sandwiches and sharing a hookah.

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

This exotic-looking water pipe, called a hookah, is one of the latest crazes college students have embraced.
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