Magic invite UCF to games

Sky-high honor
Air Force ROTC employee awarded for 20 years of service — SEE NEWS, A2

UCF program ranks 9th for scholarly productivity

The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index (FSP Index) is a method for evaluating doctoral programs at Research Universities (across all Carnegie research classifications), based on a set of statistical algorithms developed by Lawrence O. Martin, Ph.D., of the University of Central Florida and Anthony Olejniczak, Ph.D. The FSP Index measures the annual productivity of faculty on several factors including:

- Publications (books and journal articles)
- Conference presentations
- Grants
- Federal Research Funding
- Honors
- Service
- Nominations for awards
-Non-university presentations
- Non-university conference presentations

The FSP Index is a comprehensive measure of a program's scholarly productivity. The index includes data from all research institutions, allowing for a fair comparison of programs across the nation. The index is updated annually to reflect the latest data on faculty productivity.
Colleagues praise 20 years of service

JAKE BRIDGES
top five

For office manager Marty A. Fioramanti, receiving the award was a surprise. "I was shocked," Fioramanti said. "I did not expect to move rather quickly. Fioramanti was recently awarded the award for her 20 years of service to the ROTC program. "I love this job, and I love the military life," Fioramanti said. "I enjoy meeting new people and being a part of the military community."

Fioramanti has numerous patches, including one for her 20 years of service. The board was made for her by her old friend, a military officer. "She knows there are very few positions that cannot be filled with someone who is always dependable," Fioramanti said. "This isn't a job, this is a way of life for many of the cadets going to the Force ROTC's Civilian of the Year Awards."

For Fioramanti to receive the award, she had to be nominated by a high-ranking officer of the detachment, which in this case was Palmby. For Palmby, nominating someone was easy. He noted her outstanding efforts in bringing continuity and a friendly atmosphere to the entire Air Force ROTC program as the main reason for her nomination. "I couldn't do my job without her," he said. "She has a lot on her plate, it's time for her to be recognized." "The officers, who have to be with the cadets, appreciate her warm nature toward the students," Palmby said about her colleague's_ "She has a way of connecting cadets and pointing out things they might not be doing, but also she gives them credit_. RMS" Because she always seems ready to listen and help anyone who tells her of the problems the cadets warm up to her right away."

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For Fioramani...
University of Central Florida

Parking Services

Permit Regulations:
A permit is required for all motor vehicles parked on campus.
Permits MUST be ordered online, and can be picked up at the South Garage or mailed to your home.
Daily permits are available.

Vehicle assistance offered by Parking Services:
- Jumpstart your car
- Call a tow truck
- Inflate tires
- Give directions

Parking Services Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

How to get your parking permit

1. Order your parking permit online at www.parking.ucf.edu (complete instructions are online)
2. Pay for your permit:
   - Avoid the lines. Pay online with Credit Card and have your permit mailed to you.
   - Pay online and opt to pick up your permit.
   - Pay with personal check, cash, or Credit Card at Parking Services Office

Your permit must be ordered online!
www.parking.ucf.edu
For info call: (407) 823-5812
LOCAL & STATE

The others are 16 and 17. Prosecutors say each faces a charge of sexual assault by a person in a position of authority. "We were asked to make it almost impossible to reverse," said in an interview. "We almost dug in our heels and fill it up too."—DEBORAH NELSON

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Seminar brings nation's brains

KEITH SPENCER

Scientists and brain experts from around the world will gather Jan. 25 through 27 to discuss the latest research and medical advancements.

The Second International Brain Conferences at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management is being organized by UCF School of Biomedical Sciences professor Dr. Kiminobu Sugaya. It will focus on the research and treatment techniques for brain injuries and genetic defects.

"This conference's main focus is Alzheimer's, and now just Alzheimer's but brain research," Sugaya said. "The main thing is, I like to focus on the entire spectrum of brain research - from the aging brain and pediatric disorders.

Ultimately, participants at the conference will have the opportunity to experience a unique exposure to the entire spectrum of brain research.

The various lectures will cover topics such as autism, traumatic brain injury, brain tumors and the aging brain. In addition to the focus on Alzheimer's, other lectures will also include treatment of neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Although the main focus will remain on Alzheimer's disease research, this year's conference will be expanded to include developmental disorders such as autism.

According to the Autism Research Institute, more American children than ever are now also infatuated with autism.

Since the early 1990s, the rate of autism has increased exponentially around the world with figures as high as 1 in 60 in every 10,000 children.

In 2007 the Centers for Disease Control reported that 1 in 159 children are diagnosed with autism.

There is an urgent need for investigation into the brain's role in this and other developing disorders. An increased understanding of developing disorders could give us a better chance of regeneration of the brain in symptoms of autism.

This conference will also explore the relationship between the aging brain and pediatric disorders.

"Regeneration Through Generations" is the theme of this year's conference.

As in name implies, the three-day event will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about regenerative therapy for neurological disorders over the course of a lifetime.

Experts in attendance will be traveling from nations around the world, including Australia, Japan, Germany, France and Sweden.

Physicians, scientists, medical device manufacturers, nurses and students will all benefit from this highly anticipated gathering of knowledgeable medical researchers and scientists by learning about the absolute latest in brain research and practice as well as future applications.

"This is a great event to get researchers together and research ideas and results," said Manny Vrotsos, a bio-molecular science Ph.D. student. "I think it's good that we are bringing (researchers) to Orlando for a main conference on a smaller scale and a more intimate setting.

Sugaya said that every year, they bring in a guest speaker to demonstrate how they research on amyloid plaques.

Amyloids are insoluble fibrous protein matter that show specific structural traits. Pathogens contain misfolded peptides called amyloid-beta. Amyloid-betas are more than 20 amino acids wide and mainly contribute amyloid plaques in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

Amyloid plaques in gross amounts are significant in the Alzheimer's diseased brains.

The Karolinska Institute is one of Europe's largest medical universities. Founded in 1920 and located in Stockholm, it is one of Sweden's largest centers for training and research, accounting for 30 percent of the medical training and 40 percent of the medical academic research conducted nationwide.

"We believe your international brain conference will be slightly different from last year's conference. Last year's gathering featured a showing of deep brain stimulation of a Parkinson's disease patient. Sugaya explained that this year's conference will be focusing more on regeneration of a brain affected by degeneration.

"Last year, we reported that we can fix the brain using the patient's own stem cells," Sugaya said. "So our technology is made up of embryonic stem-like cells from the bone marrow stem cells. That is what we established.

"When we transplant these cells into the brains, we can create the correct dopamine, good memory and behavior in the animal, not the human yet." This year's conference will also feature representatives from the Alzheimer's Resource Center, the Alzheimer's Resource Center and the Alzheimer's Regional Health Care Center.

"The conference is produced by one of the most recent advancements in neurological care to the Central Florida region," said Florida Hospital neurosurgeon and scientific community member Dr. Michael Fort. The advancements are why I am excited about it. People from around the world are going to be presenting at the meeting, and it's one of the first international meetings held that will put the medical school of the University of Central Florida on the map as a center for medical advancements and research.

"It will be a very exciting meeting for anyone interested in neuroscience or future medicine to attend."
WASHINGTON — Congressional Democratic leaders said Tuesday that they feel urgency to enact an economic stimulus plan and are confident they can work with President Bush to craft it. Pelosi said Bush expressed confidence but said any deal must be “right, not fast.”

“The urgency that we feel at home is now even more apparent as we see the impact of our markers on others,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said after lawmakers of both parties met with Bush at the White House.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the goal is to get a deal through Congress and get Bush on deck within roughly three to four weeks before lawmakers break for the President’s Day recess.

“I really feel that we have an opportunity to make something together,” Reid said.

Earlier, Bush said he was confident that Congress and the administration will be able to approve a stimulus package and noted that the economy is “inherently strong.” Pelosi said, “I certainly hope so.”

Does it stimulate the economy that we are considering, it is urgent as we see the impact of our markets on others,” Reid said. “And make sure that something is done quickly, but that he knows the legislative process can prove tedious.”

President Bush meets with congressional leaders to discuss the economy Tuesday, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. From left, House Majority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. The congressional leaders met an emergency to enact a stimulus plan for the economy and calm fears of a recession that have shaken financial markets worldwide.

The House and Senate are negotiating a compromise that could put a price tag on a stimulus package of $140 billion, or roughly 1 percent of the gross domestic product, of about $13.5 trillion, and the Bush administration and Democratic leaders have their own ideas.

The parties are seeking cooperation but potential division about the details. “This is about one thing in common — that we should do something,” Pelosi said. 

The Democratic leaders were asked if they agree with Bush that the economy is “inherently strong” but certainly hope so.

“A lot of folks said that the House — led by Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner and working with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson — would pass a package that would be sent to the Senate. Reid said he was not only a deal proponent but Bush was a “good number.”

Bush met with bipartisan congressional leadership to discuss an emergency rescue package centered on tax rebates and business tax cuts but also likely to include increases in unemployment benefits and food stamps.

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The president has broadly outlined a stimulus plan that would include tax cuts for individuals and businesses, rebates and business tax cuts, but would need to represent roughly 1 percent of the gross domestic product, of about $13.5 trillion, and the Bush administration and Democratic leaders have their own ideas.

“Everybody wants to get something done quickly, but we want to make sure it gets done right,” the president said.

Despite the economy’s woes, he said he was confident that the long-term strength of the U.S. economy will make a difference.

The challenge of the global economic market since Bush proposed the outline of an economic package added a greater sense of urgency to the talks at the White House. He also raised the question of whether Bush is willing to go for an even more expansive package.

“I have been very encouraged by the way that both parties have come together, bipartisan support for moving quickly to do something that will make a difference this year in our economy that will be meaningful, that will be temporary and something that we can hopefully get done quickly,” Pelosi told reporters.

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Discover the difference you can make when you combine your desire to help others with a graduate degree from Nova Southeastern University. NSU is renowned for innovative programs, real-world clinical training and a warm, nurturing environment. And our team of accomplished, full-time faculty will give you all the attention you need to become a leading practitioner.

All the difference in the world.
UCF prides partnerships

UCF President John Hitt speaks at a conference in the summer of 2001. (UCF photo)

Faculty ranking a UCF first

"They are a great faculty. They create an awareness (of opportunities for collaboration) and programs outside the classroom, as well as resources." JAMES CAMPBELL, UCF vice provost for Academic Analytics

Value of research debated

square foot devoted to the Army Research Institute. However, UCF's departments have varying opinions about the university's link with the military.

"The fact that the university's policies are open to the war machine definitely worries me," said creative writing major Liz Cherevasko. "The fact that we can go through the magazines that are being done in the field that we study directly is kind of scary, and I don't think that's something that a university should be a part of," Cherevasko said. A member of the UCF College of Medicine and the Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona is a big part of the overall vision for the university.

"It's great news that we have to go around his business," Mesarow said. "He knows what he needs to do and he's going to do it. Part of what I can see is a vision with him, and that's something that takes the university and the community to the next level. The medical school is a big part of that." With the development of the medical school and the new on-campus stadium, it's also Hitt's clear record that provides confidence and respect from people in Central Florida.

"I think people are happy with the leadership he has put in place," said Ehasz. "He hasn't been involved in any kind of scandal. It's not to say that it's easy to have our side." A general research professor and graduate student in political science at UCF said, it's also Hitt's clear leadership that provides confidence and respect from people in Central Florida.

"He has a plan and he's on track," Ehasz said. "A lot of people who were here before him, and not only bringing them here, but also getting them to be successful." The UCF's fourth president, enrollment was much lower than it is now. According to the Office of Institutional Research, in fall 1992, total enrollment at UCF was 12,068. By fall 2006, that number had more than doubled, with enrollment reaching 46,097 students. UCF now enjoys the title of the largest university in the nation.

With those enrollment numbers, the prominence of the university affects the value of the degrees students receive and the way the university's reputation is perceived. UCF's influence is now a shared reality among students.

"He's the engine that drives the university," Ehasz said. "It's because of that leadership, that forward-thinking, that value innovation. He's always been aware of all that has promise and that will move the university forward in a very distinctive manner." Hitt said that his goal is to have a plan and to stick to the plan.

Ehasz said that Hitt also played a role in the decision to offer the on-campus stadium. "It's clear that the fans want to be able to watch our games here," Hitt said.

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UCF dancers to perform

Rodriguez said she believes there are many incentives urging students to take advantage of the online access the program offers.

He keeps the Heat on their feet

Barry University faculty member Dr. James Losito specializes in fancy footwork.

In addition to serving as the Miami Heat's Team Podiatric Physician, Dr. Losito teaches sports medicine and biomechanics at Barry University. Barry’s program in podiatric medicine offers extensive research facilities, distinguished hospital and medical center affiliations, and excellent opportunities for residency programs and internships across the United States. The program’s Foot and Ankle Institute gets more than 11,000 patient visits a year.

When you become a Barry University student, you join a caring community where the concept of the whole person is valued, and where a Catholic, liberal arts tradition supports your intellectual and cultural growth.

To find out more about Barry, just put one foot in front of the other. Visit www.barry.edu/podiatric.
After letting a 22-point lead slip away, Knights pull out a win against Pirates

TAYLOR lead for dear team spent the first five minutes of the game against East Carolina scoring a career-high 32 points to give the Knights a 33-23 score, but Taylor was in the locker room getting real pumped for the home crowd out of the contest because we knew we had to create our own energy ... so we just came out quick," Taylor said. "They weren't missing. They were making everything they shot.

A couple of free throws

UCF guard Torre Hoots takes a shot and Saki's intense jubilation during the Knights' 71-66 victory over East Carolina Pirates on Saturday. He also hit all four of his free throw attempts which helped the Knights and their 7-5 victory the Knights went to hand the lead back to the game.

"We were in the locker room getting real pumped because we knew we had to create our own energy ... so we just came out quick," Taylor said. And the Knights kept going.

Knights finish at 9-45 in singles, 5-6 in doubles

UCF saves its sinking ship

C-USA GAME: UCF 71, ECU 66

After letting a 22-point lead slip away, Knights pull out a win against Pirates

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"We were in the locker room getting real pumped because we knew we had to create our own energy ... so we just came out quick," Taylor said. And the Knights kept going.

Knights finish at 9-45 in singles, 5-6 in doubles

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**Knights earn first Conference USA victory**

Lewis adds to her rebound total with 11-board effort against the Rice Owls

**RYAN BASS**

It was a very big effort from guard Jaimie Elder, who had 14 points, five rebounds and four steals, but the UCF Women’s basketball team was perfect throughout the tournament and won the Sun Belt Conference title.

**NEWS TO NOTE**

SECOND TO ONE Forward Stephanie Nickitas said the Knights used a 30-9 run to blow away Houston turnovers during the second half, gaining their largest lead of the game at 20 points with 11:00 left. The Knights held the Owls to 49 points and won the turnover battle 23-16.

**DOLPHIN® DENTAL CARE**

UCF head coach Al Wilson, revised second left, has won more than four games in each of the last three seasons. The Knights are 18-10 and third in the Free Conference USA games, but things may be looking up for the Knights, who are the third best team in the Sun Belt.

**Women’s tennis gets perfect performances in Central Florida**

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Free throw shooting secures UCF win

FROM AlO

from Taylor put the Knights back up by two, but Legan bit another 3 on the Pirates' next possession to give them their first lead of the game. Guard Brock Young's jumper the next time down the court put the Pirates ahead 54-51 with five minutes to play. Guard Dave Noel and Mike O'Donnell gave the Knights a 63-58 lead with one minute left; free throws, the game could have been decided any way,' Taylor said. "We could have maybe lost. We've been working on our free throws during the break. We came in and shot 100 free throws a piece, so we've been working on that.

Taylor led the Knights in scoring for the 14th time this season. He is averaging 24.3 points per C-USA game, and the Knights are now 3-0 in conference play since the 2003-2004 season.

Legan led the Pirates with 20 points in a reserve role. He was 6-of-13 from beyond the arc.

Sunday Fundays!!

"I am proud of how our guys showed their maturity by staying calm after losing the lead," UCF head coach Kirk Speraw said in a press release. "East Carolina is much improved and this was a good win in a tough place to play. We retained our poise and came up with some big shots and big plays down the stretch."

The Knights and Miners will meet tonight in the New UCF Arena. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

UCF guard Dave Noel attempts a shot against Tulsa's Jerome Jordan.
The Democratic National Convention and all those attending it may make non-partisan framers more hesitant to act on issues of importance to the state of Florida. As we voters should realize, this is a pattern that has worked for many years.

Our problems are by no means only burdened by the DNC, who imposed harsh tactics at their convention. Because our state, Florida, has a history of voting for the Democratic nominee, the DNC has always had us in their crosshairs. This is why they have repeatedly denied us the right to have our votes count in presidential elections.

To be sure, we have seen some gains in this area, such as the implementation of online voting systems and the increase in the number of seats that have traditionally been reserved for Florida. But the long overdue changes that have only been made in recent years have not been enough to make us feel like we have a voice.

For Florida, and especially for the University of Central Florida (UCF), the future looks uncertain. The recent study by Anthony Kronman, a Sterling Professor of Law at Yale Law School and the director of the UCF Center for Law and Education, suggests that the NCAA’s Meningitis mandate is both unfair and costly.

The mandate requires that all students attending UCF’s campus must be vaccinated against meningitis, regardless of their medical history or personal beliefs. This mandate is not only unfair to those who have a legitimate reason to skip the vaccine, but it is also costly. The University of Central Florida has estimated that the mandate will cost the school at least $1 million per year in additional expenses.

In addition to the financial burden, the Meningitis mandate also raises significant ethical concerns. It is not a question of whether or not meningitis is a serious disease; it is a question of how we as a society should respond to it.

The better course of action would be for the NCAA to work with universities to develop individualized meningitis policies that take into account the unique needs of each institution. This would ensure that students have access to the care they need while also respecting their rights and beliefs.

In conclusion, the Meningitis mandate is a needless and costly burden on UCF and its students. It is time for the NCAA to recognize the harm that this mandate is causing and to work with universities to find a better solution.

KELLY BREDAHL
Student Newspapers at UCF since 1968

Online dissertations serve the public good

I am a student at the University of Central Florida and I have been involved in the debate over online dissertations. While I agree that there are legitimate concerns about online dissertations, I also believe that they serve the public good.

For example, online dissertations can provide access to research that might otherwise be inaccessible. This is particularly important in the context of the current global pandemic, when in-person access to libraries and research institutions may be limited.

In addition, online dissertations can be used to support evidence-based decision-making in government and other organizations. By providing access to research that might otherwise be paid for, online dissertations can help to ensure that decision-makers have access to the latest and most accurate information.

Overall, I believe that online dissertations serve the public good and that any concerns about them can and should be addressed in a responsible and balanced manner.
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