**Med school gets another donation**

At $160K in scholarships over halfway point

ROBIN SIEBERT Staff Writer

Twenty-three students in this year’s class of the UCF College of Medicine will now have their tuition and living expenses covered when they step foot on the Lake Nona campus in 2009.

John C. Gray Jr., a commercial and residential real estate developer and president of Lake Mary-based Paradise Investments, donated the entire class scholarships. The school must raise $160,000 per year to provide financial help for all 40 students in the inaugural class.

To date, the school has raised $58 million — more than half of what’s needed to endowment funds.

“Now that we’ve past the halfway mark, we encourage others to step forward and help us reach our goal,” UCF spokesman Zurnaide Gonzales said.

Each student in the inaugural class will be Space Jam, a film major and member of Knights for Liberty.
Pre-game event jump-starts fun

ROBYN SIDERSKY

The atmosphere in front of the New UCF Arena Wednesday night was alive with students, alumni and basketball fans for the Digital Life Gaming event.

Before every Men's Basketball game for the rest of the season, students have the opportunity to rock out to their favorite music with Rock Band sample jams or learn about student organizations.

"We're having this event to add to the excitement of a home basketball game and to supply students with an opportunity to have a good time," said Brandon Delanois, the Student Government Association's Athletics Relations coordinator.

Although SGA organized the event, all the equipment for the night was donated by the UCF Consumer Stores, Hard Knockz Laser Tag and ISPiporn.

"It's a pre-game fan experience to celebrate the digital lifestyle of the UCF campus," Delanois said.

A stage directly in front of the Arena allowed students to do their best impressions of their favorite artists with Rock Band, playing songs such as "Dont California" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and "Black Hole Sun" by Soundgarden.

"I get a chance to be a superstar," said Mathie Barbero, a junior film major at UCF.

Barbero, a first-time player, said he could practice more before trying Rock Band again but plans to attend the rest of the games this season.

Alumni who came out for the base­ball game joined the digital fun as well.

"I think it's wonderful, and the more you can offer alumni, donors and the students, the more likely they'll go gas­king," said Josh Mirlaco, who graduated from UCF in 2003 and has season tick­ets to Men's Basketball games.

UCF Sports Clubs had a big presence at the event, actively promoting their activities.

"We mostly provide sports without varsity teams," said senior criminal in¬telligence major Matt Delanois, who is president of the Wrestling Club at UCF.

Club members brought sports from wrestling and cheerleading — the most popular — to hockey, tennis and crew.

"They get you actively involved with the school," senior history major and pre­law student Travis Madera said. "Knights'cast broadcasted music for students but didn't interfere with the Rock Band performers.

"We do what we can, get the crowd out and make games bigger around campus," said Nick Mitchell, a radio station director. The Ultimate Frisbee Club was also out recruiting students to be a part of its 25 teams nationwide.

Greek organizations, such as Kappa Gamma, came to the game and newNode as a "rock's only" flag-of-war match at halftime.

"Our Vice President Logan Berkowitz came out to support the UCF basketball team," Delanois said.

These events bring people out that would not be our year-round sports fans," Berkowitz said.

Film students can showcase their films to the crowd before the game as well.

Delanois said he hopes the event will bring more people to the bas­ketball games and create a lot of excitement before every game.

TALLAHASSEE - Florida Board of Governors panel votes for Florida tuition increase

TALLAHASSEE - Florida university and college students could pay about $650 more a year in tuition starting next fall under a proposal approved by a state education panel.

Board of Governors panel votes to increase tuition nationwide is about $6,200 a year.

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Dow up more than 400 points over two days

TIM PARADIS

NEW YORK — Wall Street scored its second straight big advance Thursday and stocks inched higher Friday on new hopes for clues about the economy the market is still searching to be much conviction to it — a big rally Wednesday's one-day reversal in more than five years.

Stephen Chaikin, principal and head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group, said Thursday's overall trading reflected a combination of the balance that first began on Tuesday, when the Fed lowered its fed funds rate by a steep 0.75 percentage point, to 3.5 percent, down to 2.75 percent.

He said investors were also encouraged that the government's stimulus plan, which could help the industry.

A number of Wall Street's most recent concerns relate to the health of corporate profits. The market is still searching for clues about the economy, in hopes of deterring whether it will soon pick up or continue to slow and tip into recession.

In addition, the market was still focused on the storm in the mortgage and credit crisis, which problems has shaken the market.

That the Wall Street executed a stunning about of selling Wednesday, was down to the lowest level in nearly 300 point surge on Monday, the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 144, or 3 percent late Wednesday. The Dow on Wednesday swung 601.86 points from its low point to its high — in a single-day reversal in more than five years.

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While stocks fluctuated throughout the trading, weekly the Dow Jones industrial average was up 100 points, bringing its two-day gain to more than 400.

Jones industrials rose 100 points, bringing in buying, but were down to the lowest level in 192 percent, to 2,360.92. Volume came to 2.18 billion, trimmed decliners by 4 to 3 on the session since Jan. 9-10. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 188.4 or 0.8 percent, to 2,379.42, following a nearly 300 point surge on Wednesday. The Dow has not finished higher for two straight sessions since Jan. 9-10.

S&P 500 fell short of expectations. The market was still searching for signs of the economy's stimulus plan as well as the pace of recovery for the bond insurance industry. He said investors were also encouraged that the government's stimulus plan, which could help the industry.

Bill Dwyer, chief investment officer at MBT Investment Advisors in Baltimore, said Wall Street found some solid from word of the economic stimulus plan as well as the pace of recovery for the bond insurance industry. He said investors were also encouraged that the government's stimulus plan, which could help the industry.
In a blast ofAsset Management.

The proposal would get the system there and an
incorporate other "big ideas" to be a "backbreaker" for stu-

Another advantage approved by the board's
calendar Thursday. Basicsubjects the schools to be ready for state budget裁
keeps their admissions lower than they otherwise would, but he
know how much money they afford. The full board will
fulfil the plan later Thurs-

University spokesman Bill
Edmonds said they were
needed to hire about 2,000 fac-
ulty positions in the next five-
decade.

If enrollment in the state's
university system were to be
the highest since the end of the
1980's, it would be the best in the
number of college stu-
dents in the state in modern
memory. Edmonds said.

"But it's possible Feb.
5, 2008. We're hoping we

"A lot of people were
probably expecting that the pres-
idential election on both sides was going to be as
spectacular as the primaries, but it ended up being
more like a battle of attrition in which no one
really emerged as the clear favorite.

"We had the university
opened to close the house,
but it's not that far along in
any way."

Christiane Dellert of News and
World Report said, "We're not
talking about demolishing the fur-
ther house, but it is unknown
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The land over will be
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The Sigma Alpha Epsilon and
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According to the BOT,
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"It's not just about making
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Families with children
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"We have to have the
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Pelosi, D-Calif., and
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Student groups across the state support Ron Paul

...typical Republican," Martinez said. "This is for young people..." And the young community seems to have embraced this candidate.

...groups supporting Ron Paul at colleges across Central Florida, including UCF, Rollins College and the University of Central Florida. "I have seen Ron Paul signs all over the state and all over other states," Martinez said.

...Taulman, an engineering major, became a supporter of Paul after some Internet research.

...last week on every candidate. With that, he figured that Ron Paul had the most times I agreed with," Taulman said. "My biggest issue was the war in Iraq."

...Paul's stance on the Iraq war is a big issue that attracts young supporters. "He's the only Republican candidate that is for bringing back the troops now," Taulman said.

...Paul has made his stance on the war clear by consistently voting against the Iraq war and not voting to fund the war in any way. "He is consistent, and he doesn't flip-flop around with stuff," Taulman said. "That is why I like him."

...Ritchie said he agrees with Taulman. "He has the strongest record of opposition to the Iraq war, and he has the most genuine reason...as far as being a Ron Paul supporter," Ritchie said. "Some of the other candidates can talk their way..."

...For Martinez, Paul's ability to think about the future of young people makes him stand out.

...Ron Paul really appeals to the young generation because he really talks about things like Social Security and how we are paying for things that we aren't going to have later on," Martinez said.

...Paul is also on the record addressing ways to end the war on drugs and the possibility of abolishing the IRS. "He talks about keeping one of the other people running over here, don't ask about," Ritchie said.

...Despite this Paul buzz among college students, the congressman had a triumph when he won one of the six Republican primaries that have already taken place. His closest state was Nevada, where he took second place. As a result, supporters think that is for bringing back the troops now," Taulman said.

...I'm tired of people describing a young person," Ritchie said. "That is not how politics work. It is not a hobby. He is consistent, and he doesn't flip-flop around with stuff," Taulman said. "That is why I like him."

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...Ritchie said he agrees with Taulman. "He has the strongest record of opposition to the Iraq war, and he has the most genuine reason...as far as being a Ron Paul supporter," Ritchie said. "Some of the other candidates can talk their way..."
Med school to exchange land, gain 5 open acres

The Student Union and the Office of University Relations have reached an agreement to exchange land, allowing the medical school to expand its facilities.

The Student Union will donate 5 acres of land to the medical school, while the medical school will provide 5 open acres of land to the Student Union.

The exchange will help both parties achieve their goals. The medical school will have more space to expand its facilities, while the Student Union will have additional open space.

This exchange is part of a broader initiative to enhance the university's physical campus and improve the student experience.

Fire dept. orders evacuation

The fire department ordered an evacuation of a local restaurant due to a suspected gas leak.

The restaurant, Qdoba, was under investigation after reports of a gas leak were made. Firefighters were called to the scene to address the situation.

According to the report, the building manager called the fire department after noticing a strong smell of gas.

The fire department arrived on the scene and confirmed the presence of a gas leak. They shut down the main gas line to the building as a precaution.

The restaurant was evacuated and remained closed for several hours while the investigation continued.

The incident serves as a reminder to always be cautious when dealing with gas leaks and to immediately report any suspicion of gas leaks to the appropriate authorities.

Few have requested refunds

Despite the successful opening of Knightro’s, a new student hangout on campus, a small number of students have requested refunds.

According to the bookstore, only a handful of students have requested refunds so far. No reason for the request has been provided.

The bookstore is reminding students that refunds are only possible if the item has not been opened or used. Otherwise, returns will not be accepted.
UCF cleans up with Formula 109

UCF's offense unleashes an onslaught with 109 points against the UTEP Miners

UCF head coach Kirk Speraw said, "UTEP is a very tough team, but tonight we were able to get to some shots that we normally don't get. It was a great team effort." Speraw added, "We knew that we needed to start strong and we did. I'm surprised at how well we played."
Five Knights score more than 10 points against the Miners

The Knights defeated the Miners with five players scoring more than 10 points. This was the third consecutive game in which the Knights had multiple players with double-digit scoring.

The game was played in a close contest, with the Miners taking the lead early in the first half. However, the Knights rallied back, and with 8 minutes remaining in the game, they had a 16-point lead. Despite the Miners’ efforts to close the gap, the Knights maintained their lead, securing a victory with a final score of 85-65.

Key players in the game included Jermaine Taylor, who scored a career-high 20 points, and Mike Battle, who added 14 points. The Knights’ defense also contributed significantly, holding the Miners to just 16 points.

In other events, the Magic continued their domination over the Hawks, winning their 112-85 victory on April 18, 1996. The Magic’s Turkish, led by 26 points from Turkoglu, outscored the Hawks by 19 points, highlighting the Magic’s strong performance.

The Magic’s defense also played a critical role, holding the Hawks to just 85 points. Turkoglu’s performance became even more significant as the Magic closed the game with 13 of 26 shots from the field, showcasing their offensive prowess.

The Magic’s victory further solidified their position as one of the league’s top teams, especially against the Hawks, who were in the process of being eliminated from the playoff hunt.

Overall, the Magic’s performance demonstrates their strong offensive and defensive capabilities against a tough opponent.
Otronicon spoils Orlando techies, gamers

CHRISTINE MULLEN

The multimedia activities were endless, ranging from building your own video game with Full Sail students to forming your own Rock Band group and performing in front of adoring fans - even if they were just your friends. The convention offered state-of-the-art technology with various additions to the gaming market.

A big hit for World of Warcraft fans was Blue Orb's display of the newest way to play the PC game - with an Xbox 360 controller. Another type of gaming was represented by Hard Knocks, the simulated combat sports arena located near UCR. "This is a new, innovative form of laser tag with a twist," said George Speese, a finance major at UCF. "Even though the cost is $35 an hour, the price seems undoubtedly worth it."

Anime fans were also amid the patrons, displaying their love for Link, the main character from Zelda, and various characters from Kingdom of Hearts and Final Fantasy. Some even created their own characters.

The creativity didn't stop there. Amid kaleidoscopic lights and fog machines, visitors got to jam on the RockBand arena. The set was synched to a real drum set, constructed by Robot Wars member, Buzz. Staff members became breathless as 8- and 9-year-olds requested songs by bands such as Black Sabbath and Rush.

Of course Otronicon also made it possible for rockers to perform on the rooftop with Guitar Hero. Even though there wasn't a stage provided, there were ample guitars and Vs to go around. The exchange of tips between parents and children electrified the area, with 5-year-olds dominating the game on expert level - look out, Slash.

Around the bend, through the plentiful assortment of timeless arcade games and beyond the historic product lines from Macintosh, one room was filled with 30-inch TVs connected to numerous Nintendo 'Wii's and stocked with the most recent releases. Despite the delayed release of Super Smash Brothers Brawl, people of all ages enjoyed the array of Wii Sports games. Families crowded around the Wii area, waiting in line for the opportunity to perfect their bowling game. Even young children were begging their parents to play the old-school arcade games, such as Pac-Man and Super Metroid, that were normally occupied by college students taking a break from their studies.

For those who weren't into the physical aspect of gaming, there were many other avenues to dive into.

Things got really heated when Monday night rolled around and brought with it the mother of all competitions. Contestants were required to pay a small fee to get a shot at first prize, which was $100. Second and third place made out as well with $75 and $50 prizes.

Halo 3 was such a hit that staff had to close competition registration an hour early because of the extreme volume of entrants. The nightly competitions made it virtually impossible for gamers to pick which night they would visit the Orlando Science Center. The first competition, held on Friday night, was one that warmed everyone's hearts: Super Smash Brothers Melee. The D.Contact Theater was packed.
BOLD spring colors are bright when worn right

AMANDA K. SHAPIRO
Washington, D.C.

For years, Floridians have not been able to_constraints enough of their bright, flair-...
Gossip Girl keeps viewers talking

WILLIAM GOSS
Staff Writer

A day that started out with the fairly enjoyable announcement of this year's Oscar nominations found itself ending in yet another Academy Award nomination for Heath Ledger. Ledger's role in 'The Dark Knight', which includes his portrayal of the Joker, was recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The announcement of Ledger's nomination comes as a surprise to many, considering the recent news of Ledger's death. The death of Ledger has been ruled a possible overdose but more evidence is needed to confirm the cause of death.

The young actor had recently split from his fiancee, Michelle Williams, and had recently completed his role in 'The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus'. The film was shut down following Ledger's death.

Regarding the film, Ledger had completed only part of shooting on his role. The young actor had already completed some of his scenes in the film, and early indications suggest that his performance will provide a worthy closure to his acting career. The movie is set to be released in late 2008.

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