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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT UCF — PUBLISHED SINCE 1968

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NEWS

CENTRAL FLORIDA Future

The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

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Newsroom

407-447-4555

Editor-in-Chief:

Bernard Wilchusky
BernardW@CentralFloridaFuture.com

News editor:

Gabby Baquero
MariaB@CentralFloridaFuture.com
Alissa Smith
AlissaS@CentralFloridaFuture.com

Sports editor:

Matthew Saunders
MatthewS@CentralFloridaFuture.com

Entertainment editor:

Alex Storer
AlexS@CentralFloridaFuture.com

Digital Producers: Jillian James, Shana Medel., Christopher Davis, Jean Racine

Senior staff photographer:

Paige Wilson

Business

407-447-4555 (phone)
407-447-4556 (fax)

Content Manager: Caroline Glenn
x210, caglenn@gannett.com

Sales:

Jerry Patterson, x 212
JPatterson@KnightNewspapers.com

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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

The Central Florida Future summer 2016 staff. Back row, left to right: Jean Racine, Bernard Wilchusky, Alissa Smith, Matthew Saunders and Alex Storer. Front row, left to right: Caroline Glenn, Paige Wilson, Jillian James, Shana Medel and Gabby Baquero. Not picture: Christopher Davis.

WELCOME TO UCF

BERNARD WILCHUSKY

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Welcome to UCF!

You're now part of a huge community of students, teachers and staff who comprise our fair university.

Its size makes UCF a bit different from other colleges or post-secondary institutions — think of the school like a tiny metropolis, composed of 13 different neighborhoods by way of its colleges, in addition to its hundreds of smaller clubs, fraternities and sororities, and special-interest groups.

Our job here at the *Central Florida Future* is to bridge the gaps between those various groups, to weave the disparate threads of interest into a sensible narrative for the benefit of our readers.

To that end, you can find our latest issue of tales in the news boxes dotted

throughout campus and refreshed every Thursday. You can follow us on Twitter @ucfnews for the latest breaking stories, on Instagram @centralfloridafuture for our curated image feed, culled from the best multimedia content our staff has created each week, or on Snapchat @ucfnews for our behind-the-scenes event coverage.

If there's an unanswered question about university life burning a hole in your brain or a story you've always wanted to read, message our team at BreakingNews@centralfloridafuture.com or on our Facebook page. It's our mission to find the answers about UCF and Orlando that you've been dying to know.

If you want a platform to share your views with the rest of the community — and make no mistake, this school is a community with many different faiths, political views, ethnicities and sexuali-

ties — then consider writing for our opinions section.

Or, if you want to get a peek into how we collect and produce our news, consider writing, taking photos or making videos for us as a contributing reporter. We'll show you the ropes and teach you the skills and craft necessary to succeed as a journalist, photographer or videographer.

We understand that your time is valuable — thanks for sharing it with us.

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A look back on university's history

JESSICA SAGGIO

FLORIDA TODAY

We've come a long way since the 1960s. From a vacant piece of natural land to a vast and expanding university, UCF has had quite the journey.

So let's take a look back at the many struggles, triumphs, traditions and developments that have made UCF the growing force it is today. Now the second-largest university in the nation, and the largest in the state, UCF has made a splash over the past 52 years, but with roots deep in the area, that didn't happen by accident.

THE 1960s

Before the crazy headlines or the 417 or even Disney, Central Florida had an identity. It was the center of space travel, and oh what an exciting time it was. Project Mercury was underway NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. Alan Shepherd had just become the first U.S. citizen in space and just years later Neil Armstrong would make that "one small step for man" on the moon.

The space industry was booming and the area was growing at a rapid pace. UCF didn't exist yet, but it was only a matter of time.

As the space industry continued to grow, the need for educated workers and training facilities became paramount and the idea of a "space university" was thrown on to the table for debate. According to UCF records, a man named William Dial, who was a banker and lawyer, began to lobby in Tallahassee for a public university to aid the ever-growing space industry. Lobbying Bill No. 125, Dial's connections and support in Tallahassee helped get the bill passed, which marks the very beginning of the university we all know and love today.

In the beginning of 1964, land was earmarked for the soon-to-be university on Alafaya Trail in Orlando. The 1,227-acre piece of land was donated in part and sold in part. Five hundred of those acres were purchased for a total cost of \$500,000.

"Eighty-nine Orange County residents pledged a total of \$1 million in cash and securities to secure the purchase of the site. Millions more would be needed to begin construction. Martin Anderson called Gov. Haydon Burns and Dial flew to Tallahassee to argue for immediate funding. The governor agreed and ordered the project to be moved to No. 1 on



An official UCF sign is hung after the school changed names in 1978.

COURTESY UCF

the higher-education funding priority list," UCF's history website states.

Fast forward to March 1967, and a groundbreaking for the Florida Technical University was well underway. However, it wouldn't be until Oct. 7, 1968 that students would roam halls and occupy classrooms.

As FTU opened up its doors, a university seal, the Pegasus, was selected along with a motto, "Reach for the Stars," and colors, black and gold.

"The motto was a challenge and admonition to students to always aim high, try harder and go beyond what they believed possible. Pegasus contrasted and connected the old and new, the humanities with science and technology," the UCF website states.

In 1969, unofficial mascots popped up out of the woodwork, including a fellow who has recently come out of retirement – the Citronaut. Poised with a laser gun, space helmet and the body of an orange, the Citronaut was never an official mascot, but has become a legend of sorts since its debut on the student handbook. Students weren't too keen on the mascot, and the student newspaper showed its disapproval with other suggestions from the student body. The student newspaper, then known as the FuTUre, is still around to this day, but operates under the name *Central Florida Future* – which

you are reading right now. Pretty cool, huh?

The first class of students was comprised of 1,948 students who had 55 degree programs offered five colleges to choose from. Those colleges included Business Administration, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Engineering and Technology.

Charles Millican was the first university president of FTU, and his name still echoes throughout campus as students and staff reference on the campus' most prominent buildings – Millican Hall.

THE 1970s

In the 1970s, Trevor Colbourn had taken over as the university's president and growth continued year over year. But the 1970s were just a decade of growth for the university, it was a decade of change.

In 1978, officials gave their stamp of approval for a big change – a name change. Instead of being Florida Technical University, the ever-expanding campus would become the University of Central Florida.

"The new president realized that the community population had changed and diversified, and so had the university. Many students were now enrolled in widely varied academic programs, re-

flecting a shift in demand for strictly technological and scientific education as the local economy diversified," the UCF website states.

Also notable in the 1970s, the university's mascot made a change. FTU had garnered the nickname "knights" and the students were all about it. It was also in the 70s that the Knight mascot really came into play as the basketball squad reached varsity level and became a NCAA Division II team. The team went 17-9 that first season.

By 1979, a football team was the talk of campus and Athletics Director Jack O'Leary approved a decision to form a NCAA Division III football team. The team was led by head coach Don Jonas and the season opener was September 22, 1979 against St. Leo. The Knights won 21-0 and finished the season with a 6-2 record.

THE 1980s

Mascots continued to be a hot topic on campus and with an emerging football team, a new face had also appeared: Sir Wins-A-Lot. By the end of the 90s, however, Sir Wins-A-Lot became more of an authentic Knight on a horse, which we still see kick off games today.

By 1989, the enrollment at UCF had increased to 18,000 students and facilities like the university's Research Park, the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers and the Institute for Simulation and Training were well established.

With the football team in place, budding research facilities and a rapidly growing student population, the 80s would be a true decade of expansion for the university. And also notably, a new kind of UCF spirit was born in 1980 – the Marching Knights.

THE 1990s

Perhaps it was the 1990s that led to many of our most cherished traditions here at UCF. UCF pillars such as Spirit Splash and Knightro all came to be around 1995. Spirit Splash began when then-SGA president Miguel Torregrossa was pushed into the Reflection Pond by one of his cabinet members, kicking off a pep rally of sorts.

A "blue print" for UCF's future was also laid out in 1991, citing a master plan for massive growth and expansion to

See **HISTORY**, Page F10



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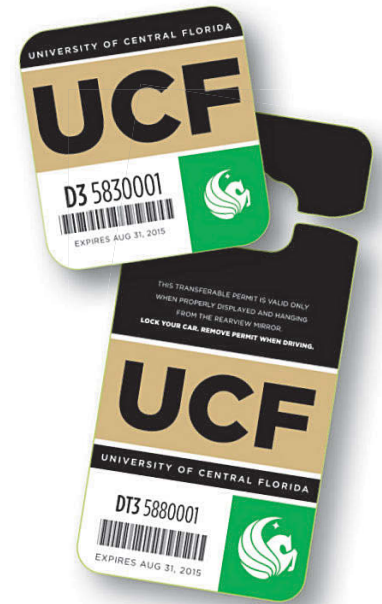
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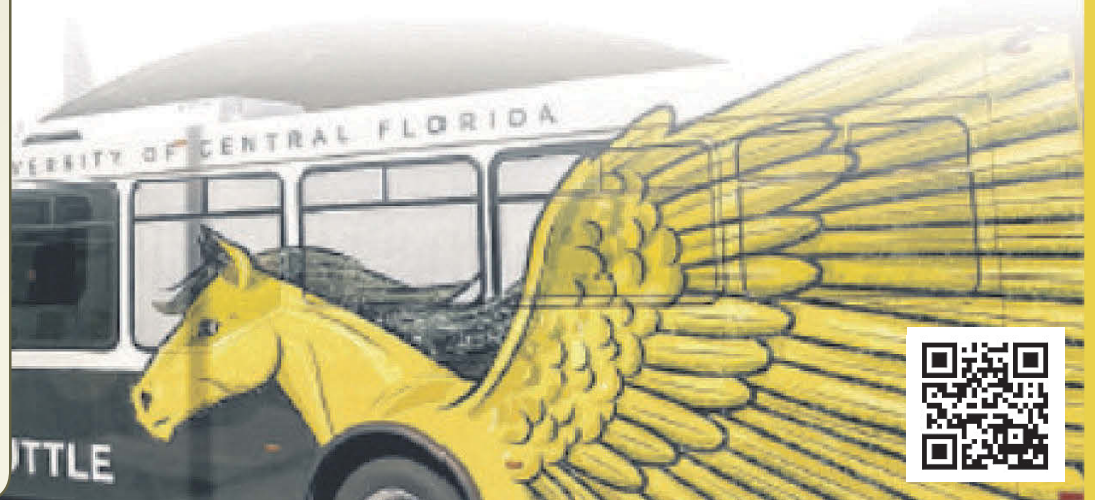
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6	Northgate Lakes/Tivoli	HPA	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
7	The Pointe at Central	Millican Hall	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
8	Riverwind at Alafaya	HPA	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
9	Knights Landing / Research Park	Health Center	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
10	The Lofts/Jefferson Village (Orion on Orpington)	Transit Center	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
11	The Marquee	Transit Center	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
12	University House Central Florida	Millican Hall	6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
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A history of UCF mascots

STAFF REPORT

Along with his identity, many students may not have known an important detail about their school's mascot, Knightro: his age. This year, the beloved mascot will ring in his 21st birthday, and UCF will join in on festivities all week.

To celebrate, the *Central Florida Future* compiled a brief rundown of UCF's mascot history:

VINCENT THE VULTURE

Inspired by a number of vultures that were commonly seen circling campus back in the day, Vincent the Vulture was an unofficial mascot up for contention in the late 1960s, when UCF was still known as Florida Technological University.

Notably, one vulture was particularly friendly, having been fed by students for so long. When the vulture was found dead on campus, instead of being disposed of, it was taxidermied and held in the President's Office until it was moved to the University Archives at an unknown time.

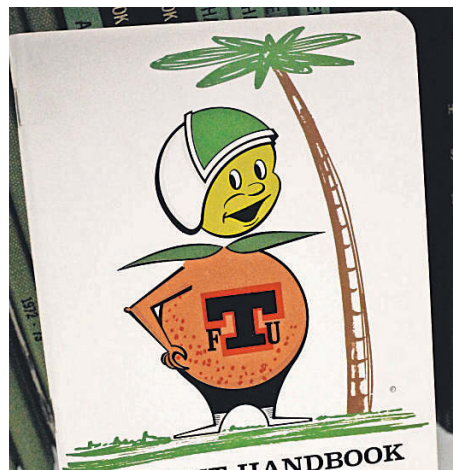
The mascot suggestion resembled a fat penguin and apparently had UCF's first president, Charles Millican, in stitches.

"I thought President Millican was going to die," professor Christian Clausen said in a previous interview. "President Millican had a good sense of humor, but that almost sent him overboard."



ADAM RHODES / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Vincent the Vulture was inspired by the many vultures that circled the campus back in the day.



ADAM RHODES / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

The first Student Handbook marks the first appearance of the never-official mascot, the Citronaut.

THE CITRONAUT

In 1969, another unofficial mascot popped up out of the woodwork — a fellow who has recently come out of retirement, the Citronaut. Poised with a laser gun, space helmet and the body of an orange, the Citronaut has become a legend of sorts since its debut on the student handbook. Beloved by some and despised by others, the Citronaut never became an official mascot and no official costume was ever made.

The *Central Florida Future*, known then as the *FuTure*, even covered the plight of the Citronaut in a 1970 article, "Are we doomed to be the Citronauts forever?" However, in 2012, another column ran titled "Patiently waiting, Citronaut shall rise, return to glory." Today, the men's baseball team dons Citronaut uniforms during its season.

THE LOST YEARS

In 1969, a new mascot was up for proposal. Some of the proposed mascots included a scorpion, a mosquito and even a fruit fly.

KNIGHTS BEFORE KNIGHTRO

After second President Trevor Colbourn changed the university's name from FTU to University of Central Florida, he decided another change was needed — a mascot change. FTU had garnered the nickname "knights" and the



NICK LEYVA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Knightro celebrates with the student section after a Knights' touchdown against Furman on Sept. 19, 2015.

students were all about it. Before Knightro, another knight-themed mascot, Knights of Pegasus, was introduced in December 1970.

It was also in the 70s that the knight mascot really came into play as the basketball squad reached varsity level and became a NCAA Division II team.

With an emerging football team led by then head coach Don Jonas, a new face had also appeared: Sir Wins-A-Lot, who was knighted by Colbourn himself. There was even a dragon named Puff that served as the slaying target of the mascot. By the end of the 90s, however, Sir Wins-A-Lot became more of an authentic Knight on a horse, which we still see before kickoff at football games today.

KNIGHTRO

Knightro officially came on the scene at the 1994 Spirit Splash, though he did not receive his name until 1995. By 1999, Knightro was already in his second generation. It is unknown the exact date of each generational transition, but the Knightro known today is the fourth generation, said Mike Callahan of the UCF Spirit Team in a previous interview.

Created in 1994 through a committee that involved alumni, the athletics program and the Student Government Association, the first Knightro was played by Trey Gordon, a driving force behind his creation. While two parties were jug-

gling changing the mascot to a shark or to a Barney-like dragon, Gordon said he reached out to a graphic design studio for a rendering that ended up becoming the main Knightro image. Although his suit used to weigh a good 50 pounds in the early 2000s, it got a makeover when Bright House Networks Stadium opened in 2007, reducing it to about 25 pounds.

In August, the *Future* learned that another man was behind the mascot: Ed Knight Jr., known as "Sir Knight" by students. Ed, who died Aug. 16 at the age of 93, was instrumental in helping students maintain their deferments, and in turn, keeping them out of Vietnam during his 20-year career as UCF's director of records and registration.

"The student body ended up voting for 'the Knights,' and not everyone knew why, but it was because of Ed Knight and what he did for us," said John Voelpel, a UCF and Kappa Sigma alumnus. In fact, the entire fraternity backed the idea.

Today, Knightro is played by eight different students through Team Knightro. Tryouts are held to fill spots when they become vacant, and students' identities are kept secret. With sword and shield in hand, the mascot can be spotted all over campus, but he's best known for his appearances at football games and Homecoming events. For Spirit Splash he always dons a pair of swim trunks, and of course a tux for the Homecoming crownings.



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DOWNTOWN UCF

The search for funding for UCF's downtown campus came to an end March 15 after Gov. Rick Scott signed the 2016-17 Florida budget into law. Funding for the project had met a number of setbacks, including a funding reduction by the Florida Legislature on June 18, 2015, and a veto by Gov. Scott shortly thereafter.

The budget included \$20 million dollars earmarked for the downtown campus' first building, a 165,000-square-foot academic building located in the heart of Orlando that will support 7,700 students from UCF and Valencia College. The government's contribution was one-third of the \$60 million required for construction, with the remaining \$40 million to be split evenly between university funds and private donations.

As of May 2, UCF had attained \$17 million of its \$20 million private funding goal.

SGA SKULLDUGGERY

Drama struck the Student Government Association's presidential elections this year after the campaign of candidates Jacob Milich and Elaine Sarlo was suspended due to several election violations. Milich sued UCF, current presidential incumbent Cait Zona and the SGA for what he claimed were violations of his First Amendment rights. U.S. District Judge Janet C. Thorpe ruled against Milich, leaving only two contenders for the presidency: Christopher Clemente and Rachel Altfield, and Anthony Safadi and Ali Nassereddin.

Clemente and Altfield were sworn in as SGA president and vice president on the evening of March 30.

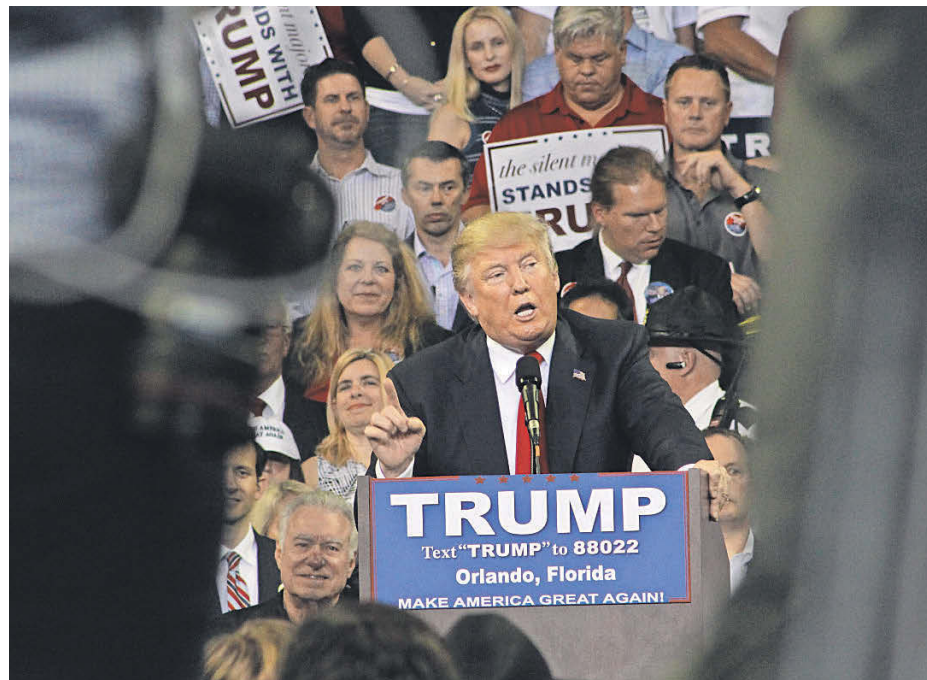
LIBRARY SCARE

An errant text on the messaging service GroupMe led to the evacuation of the John C. Hitt Library on April 26 after the UCF Police Department was alerted to the presence of a possible gunman or gunman on campus. The message, which read "...we saw the girl, I didn't see the gun but [name redacted] said she's 90% sure that's what she had in her hands and the girl was like Muslim and in



JILLIAN JAMES / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Armed officers outside the UCF library, which was evacuated after reports of a possible gunman.



GABBY BAQUERO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Donald Trump visited UCF's CFE Arena on March 5.

a corner like freaking out," triggered the following alert on UCF's emergency alert system: "POSSIBLE MIDDLE EASTERN GUN MAN/WOMAN IN UCF MAIN CAMPUS LIBRARY. AVOID THE AREA!"

Members of the local community raised concerns over the language of the alert message and questioned the need to indicate the ethnicity of the shooter. Chief Richard Beary of UCFPD defended the alert's wording, citing the need for quick action.

"It wasn't meant to be insensitive," Beary said. "These are time-sensitive situations. We have 180 characters to put out a text as quickly as possible. How much time do you really have to word-smith that?"

TRUMP VISITS UCF

Presumptive Republican Party nominee Donald Trump visited the CFE Arena at UCF on March 8 prior to the Florida Primaries, drawing several dozen pro- and anti-Trump protesters to campus. Trump discussed his chances against Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, his plan to build a wall on the border of Mexico and his large monetary contributions to his own campaign.

An incident at the rally in which a Marine veteran and UCF student Marius Loots was caught on camera being fed nachos by his friend, an officer candidate in the Marines, later went viral on social media.

"It was definitely immature, but a guy next to me was wearing a unitard, so what the hell," Loots said. "[My friend] and I were just trying to pass the time."

DATA HACK

A data hack by unknown perpetrators led to the compromise of personal information from 63,000 current and former UCF students, faculty and staff members. Members of the university whose information was compromised in the hack were given a year of free credit monitoring. The university is currently working alongside the FBI to investigate the source of the data intrusion.

Two class-action lawsuits were raised against the university for negligence in protecting sensitive data were raised by three UCF alumni: Jeremiah Hughley, Logan Berkowitz and Anthony Furbush.

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History

Continued from Page F4

meet the demands of the student body, which was expected to double in the next decade.

Over the next 20 years, building continued to sprout up on and around campus, and the feeling of growth and expansion is still present today.

In the 1990s, UCF president Steven Altman turned over the reins to our current university president, John C. Hitt. Hitt became the fourth president of the university and has been the leader during the school's most notable growth spurt. Since the 1990s, the campus size has, in fact, more than doubled and is now playing host to whopping 56,000 and counting student body.

THE 2000s

From the Citrus Bowl, soon to be renamed Camping World, to an on-campus stadium to a new arena and dorms galore, the 2000s were a huge turning point for UCF. In the last decade, the univer-

sity population has increased by 40 percent, according to the UCF website, and with it, the physical size of the campus seems to be growing as well.

It was the 2000s where we saw the addition of hundreds of dorm rooms and a small city we all call "Knights Plaza." The Towers made quite an impact on the availability of student housing, but the demand continues to grow. Off-campus housing has blossomed near UCF and the addition of restaurants, apartments, shopping and transportation mirrors a similar growth as the university.

In the 2000s, the football team played at the Citrus Bowl near Downtown Orlando where many different traditions took place compared to what we do today. A cannon was once fired after every touchdown and students were flung in the air according to the number of points on the board. OK, perhaps the students flying in the stands remains a tradition these days, but it's frowned upon.

In 2004, coach George O'Leary's first year as the head coach, the Knights went 0-11 in the Mid American Conference. It was a complete skunk.

However, the tides changed as times went by and in 2014, the Knights became American Athletic Conference champi-



COURTESY UCF

Past UCF President Trevor Colbourn holds up Central Fla. Blvd. sign.

ons and winners of the BCS Tostitos Bowl in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2014, the football team also made waves as Quarterback Blake Bortles became the highest pick in the draft the region has ever produced. Bortles was picked third overall by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

UCF won its second-consecutive conference championship title this past season, winning the ticket to the Bitcoin

Bowl in St. Petersburg. Although the Knights fell to NC State, they didn't fail to send a first-round pick to the 2015 NFL Draft. Wide receiver Breshad Perriman went to the Baltimore Ravens as the 26th pick. Safety Clayton Geathers was snapped up by the Indianapolis Colts during the fourth round as the 109th pick.

Unfortunately, this past season was another winless one that saw the retirement of head coach George O'Leary and hiring of new coach, Scott Frost.

Today, the university almost is like its own city with its own government, its own center of town and its own culture. But even more expansion is on the horizon, as UCF's downtown campus was approved this year and is expected to be completed by fall 2018. The \$60 million expansion will bring 5,000 students to the downtown area, along with programs in health care, communications, social work, digital media, health services, administration and legal studies.

President Hitt called the project "one of the most important milestones in UCF's history."

And as the university plunges into the future, perhaps its motto "reach for the stars" will be the limit to the history that is made in the years to come.

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FT-000559963

Dealing with roommates

DEANNA FERRANTE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a freshman, there are a lot of things to be anxious about. New classes, a new schedule, making new friends and, for some, new living arrangements. When I was first starting at UCF, I decided that I was going to take the plunge and dorm on campus, but without knowing the girls I would be living with.

Now, we've all heard horror stories about terrible roommates. Girls who are slobbers or steal or secretly use your toothbrush. So, I had a few reservations about moving into tight living quarters with three complete strangers.

I, like the dork I am, reached out to all of them a few weeks before we were all supposed to move in. It didn't really do much. They didn't live in the area, and it's hard to get to know someone without meeting them in person. My suggestion for anyone dorming with someone he or she doesn't know, just wait until you meet the other person. That way, you're both getting the full effect of a first impression.

To my surprise, two of my roommates actually became my best friends. We all liked the same things and had the same hobbies. We shopped together, cooked together and even took some of the same classes. It only took a few weeks before we were inseparable.

So what's the secret to getting along with your roomies?

Go to things together. It doesn't matter that you know absolutely nothing about this person; you don't need to know someone's life story to go see a concert together. Pegasus Palooza, which happens the first week of classes during the fall semester, is a great way to get out of your dorm and have some fun together. When I was a freshman, my roommates and I went to every event. These shared experiences gave us things to talk about and served as jumping off points for other topics. Plus, we also developed a ton of inside jokes, a key element to any blossoming friendship.

Offer up opportunities to hang out.

If you're heading out to get some Chipotle, why not invite your roomie, too? You can both obsess over your Mexican food fixation, and eating together is a great way for natural conversations to start. You'll get to learn more about your roommate, and they'll get to know what you put on your burrito — a vital piece of information should they ever offer to pick lunch up for you one day.



JILLIAN JAMES / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

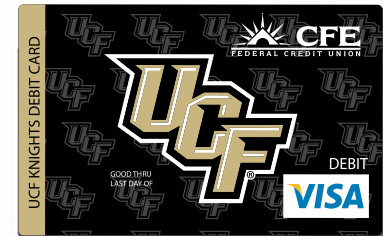
Put in some roomie time and eat dinner together every once in a while.

Don't be shy. At least in the beginning, try to step out of your comfort zone. If your roommate is comfortable with it, knock on his or her door and pop in for a chat. If you're sharing a room, ask how his or her day was when they get home. If it rubs your roommate the wrong way, you can always stop, but it's better to start out being too nosy than waiting too long and missing your window for natural bonding to happen. You're both new to this whole college thing, so you might as well make the most of it.

Establish boundaries and rules early. If you have a really big pet peeve, don't wait for all your annoyance to build up just because you're trying to be nice. If your roomie has a bad habit, make sure you let them know if it's upsetting you. If you don't want anyone to touch the homemade cookies your mom sent in her care package, make sure you let them know. If you hate when people leave the toilet seat up, politely make a point. And always ask before you use something that doesn't belong to you. These little things here and there can build up to create a lot of resentment, the type of thing that can make living with someone a nightmare. It's better to nip them in the bud and start off on the right foot.

Even if you don't end up being best friends with your roommate, it's important to remember that he or she is still someone you have to interact with every day, someone who deserves respect. Be polite, be understanding and try to make compromises. On top of clubs, essays and midterms, who needs one more thing to stress over?

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Say goodbye high school, hello college life

JILLIAN JAMES
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

After my first year at UCF, high school feels very distant. I vaguely remember a homecoming dance and a pep rally and stressing about AP exams and the ACT. I went to a fairly small high school and ended up attending the second-largest university in the country. College is very different from high school in both good ways and bad, and it will be unlike anything you've ever experienced. Now that I survived my first year, I'm passing down advice for incoming freshmen:

1. Learn how to clean and do laundry prior to moving into your dorm. The cleaning is all up to you. It's pretty embarrassing to have to ask someone how to work the laundry machine. Have your parents give you a laundry and cleaning tutorial if you need it before you move in.

2. You will most likely need to bring a microwave, a mini fridge and a coffee maker. You will not need to bring every book you have ever read, your pet turtle



GABBY BAQUERO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Unlike high school, college courses are often lecture style, with hundreds of students.

and your winter parka. Leave those at home. It's much easier to live in a dorm when you have minimal clutter.

3. At the beginning of the semester, your professors will hand you a syllabus that lays out the assignment dates for a class. Do not lose it. In college, your en-

tire grade for a class may consist of a three tests and a project. You may not be reminded about upcoming tests, and you have to be accountable.

4. Nobody is going to make sure that you eat a vegetable every one in awhile, but it's probably a good idea. In college,

you are surrounded by restaurants and can make the decision to eat Dominos for every meal. However, that would probably be hazardous to your health, so try to make good choices.

5. You have the power to choose what times you have your classes. If you are not a morning person, it's probably not a great idea to sign up for an 8:30 a.m. class. Trust me. If you think that you are a morning person, then early college classes will put your ability to wake up to the test.

6. Take advantage of all of the amazing opportunities that UCF has to offer. Join different clubs and attend events on campus. UCF is a very big place, but you can make it feel smaller by getting involved.

7. The person that you are when you step foot on the UCF campus will not be same person who leaves. You will have amazing experiences and be exposed to new people. College is the perfect time to find out who you really are, so embrace that person wholeheartedly.

FINDING A CAREER

Choose a major that makes you happy

ALISSA SMITH
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

You're finally starting college. How many people have asked you what you're majoring in just today? Too many, right?

Advisers will tell you to pick a major as quickly as possible and parents will tell you to pick one that will get you a job — but really, pick one that makes you happy.

Don't major in something just because it will get you hired.

You're going to be spending a greater portion of the next four years sitting through classes and labs — make sure you enjoy them.

OK, now you're probably wondering what other nonsense I'm about to rattle off, but listen to me.

I've only ever known one person who entered college knowing what she wanted to do with her life. She graduated on time and now works in a completely unrelated field that she could've worked in without a degree at all.

College isn't for everybody, but if you

think it's for you, listen up.

Don't pick a major based on what anyone tells you would look good on your resume or that you would be good at. Don't listen to an adviser who went to college only to end up advising you on what to do — I bet they didn't major in advising. Fun fact, most people don't actually end up in a career related to their major.

So major in something that makes you excited for the first day of every semester.

Look through the course catalogs: Which classes interest you the most? Maybe it's history, magic or religion; check out anthropology. Maybe you're mostly interested in art; check out marketing, photography, broadcast journalism or even just "art." Maybe you love the idea of accounting and the sense of a job well done when all the numbers line up; check out accounting, finance, entrepreneurship or even economics.

Look at the classes that most interest you and then pick the major that includes a majority of those classes. Yes, you need to have "marketable skills," but let me

tell you: You can learn to put together a business plan or code at a later date, you cannot recreate the network of friends and professional contacts or even internship opportunities that you're going to be offered at UCF. Don't waste the next four years working on — or in — something you hate.

No matter what you major in, you're going to have late nights, group members you think are pure evil, projects that make no sense, cumulative exams, early classes, late classes, long classes, senior project requirements, loud classmates, annoying deadlines and probably a caffeine addiction. So make sure you choose a major that you think is worth it. If becoming a doctor makes all that seem like a small inconvenience, then go for it. If the idea working in theater wakes you up more than a large coffee after two weeks of late-night dance practices, then do it.

People will pressure you to make your choice now or may have pressured you to decide back in high school — don't. Instead, take your time making this deci-

sion. Get to know people in different majors and ask what they like and dislike about their college. Flip through a couple dozen course catalogs. Take the time to just sit and think about your hobbies and what you like to do.

However, don't take too long. UCF is one of the schools that suffers from the excess credit hour surcharge where all you incoming freshmen will have to pay more for school once you pass a certain number of credit hours.

Don't feel pressured by anyone. You don't even need to go to an adviser to make any decisions about your major or what classes to take. You can use your degree audit that's available on my.ucf.edu; it will let you see your progress toward the end of your degree along with what classes you have taken, plan to take or still need to take.

At the end of the day, think about it like this: If you major in something you don't like, you'll be working toward a career you don't like. Why waste the time?

Moving in?



- Bring a cart.
- Remember your UCF ID card.
- Dress for warm weather.
- Stay hydrated.
- Take a look at the Move-In page on the Housing website to help plan out your day!

UCF Lives Here.
www.housing.ucf.edu/movein/

A quick guide to understanding SGA

ASHLEY WHITE
Central Florida Future

Getting involved while at UCF is crucial. Being involved helps you make friends, network, discover things you are passionate about and also helps you get to know UCF a little bit better.

There are a variety of ways to get involved on campus. To find a club or student organization to get involved with there is Knight Connect, a service that allows students to connect with registered student organizations. There are plenty of sporting events and tailgates to attend. Homecoming is a week of fun things to do and also allows students to get to know alumni. There is also Greek life, academic and social, that provides sisterhood and brotherhood as well as opportunities to make an impact in the community. Another way to get involved is with the Student Government Association.

The SGA is a lot different at UCF than it was in high school. It is a state-mandated entity that allocates approximately \$17.5 million each year. The money goes toward student scholarships, student resources and student organizations. Student resources include two All Knight Studies, free printing, a 150,000-square-foot Recreation and Wellness Center, Knight LYNX and a myriad of activities to get involved with and much more.

One of the best things about SGA is that it is run entirely by students and most of them are elected by students. If you want to get involved and don't know how, you can visit the SGA office on the second floor of the Student Union. You can also learn more about the SGA and what resources it offers by visiting www.ucfsga.com.

Just like the U.S. government, the UCF SGA is divided into three separate branches: the executive branch, the judicial branch and the legislative branch.



BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
The Student Government Association controls millions of dollars of funds at UCF, in addition to managing the Student Union.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive branch is composed of the student body president, the student body vice president and their appointed cabinet. Members of the executive branch sit on more than 35 different university councils to ensure that students' voices are heard.

Both the student body president and the student body vice president are typically elected to office by students after campaigning during the spring semester. They then serve from the summer semester to the following spring semester.

Once elected, the student body president appoints a cabinet. The cabinet consists of a diverse group of students who serve the university through education and campus life. To be effective and efficient, the cabinet is split into five divisions: the administrative division, the communications division, governmental affairs, campus life and student affairs divisions.

If you are a freshman or first-year transfer student and are interested in getting involved with the executive branch, you can join the Student Body President's Advisory Council. Members of the council are guided through a year-long mentorship program aimed at creating the future leaders of UCF. Both Weston Bayes and Sydney Altfield, the outgoing student body president and vice president, met while serving on the council.

There is also the SGA Ambassador's program that is open to all students. Ambassadors act as the voice of the SGA throughout the UCF campus.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial branch is better known as the Judicial Council. It works to protect the rights of the student body.

Members of the judicial branch sit on various university committees such as the Student Conduct Review Board, SGA Parking Appeals, Fee Appeals, Grade Appeals and Eligibility and Requirement Appeals committees.

The judicial branch has a mentorship program called the Justice League. The Justice League allows students to immerse themselves in the day-to-day activities of the judicial branch. Members meet weekly with judicial branch mentors that prepare them to transition from the Justice League to an associate justice position in the judicial branch. The Justice League teaches students to be unbi-



CFF ARCHIVE

Student senators represent the different colleges at UCF.



JACOB CUMMINGS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Rachel Altfield and Christopher Clemente pose for a photo at the 2016 SGA presidential debate held in the Cape Florida ballroom of the Student Union on March 23.



GABBY BAQUERO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Sen. Crystian Cepeda, who occupies Seat No. 4 in College of Engineering and Computer Science, was elected the new SGA Speaker of the Senate on April 21. He won 28 votes out of the 40 votes cast.

ased leaders and how best to serve the interests of students at all times.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch is better known as the SGA Senate. The Senate consists of 59 senate seats and various leadership positions.

Typically, senators are elected in the fall semesters. The Senate represents each college, undergraduate and graduate students and satellite campuses.

Senators budget and distribute the \$17.5 million student government budget. They work with students and student organizations to provide them with the funds necessary for travel, conference registration, event planning and

more.

The SGA Senate is also a great place for students to voice their concerns. The senators possess the ability to lobby on important issues affecting students to the UCF administration and to the Florida state legislature. During the fall and spring semesters, Senate meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Key West Ballroom on the second floor of the Student Union. Meetings are open to all students.

To learn about the SGA Senate, you can get involved with the Senate Leadership Council. The council gives students the opportunity to learn about the procedures and tasks performed by the SGA senators. Members are paired with a senator who acts as a mentor and explains the inner-workings of the Senate.

Embrace college life, step out of your comfort zone

CHRISTOPHER CLEMENTE
UCF SGA PRESIDENT

To the Newest Knights:
Welcome!

As is the customary beginning to welcome letters, congratulations on choosing UCF as your path towards an amazing future. You're going to love it here.

Now, it's time for what I really want to say.

Over the course of your next few years, you will have more opportunities than you can reasonably take advantage of, you will meet more people than you can reasonably befriend and you will learn more things than you can reasonably remember. Of course, those things are only true if you want them to be. One of the best lessons that I have learned so far in life is that the world presents us with amazing opportunities, and it is largely up to us as to whether we embrace them or not.

I know that entering a university with

more than 60,000 other students can seem daunting. It might seem impossible to stand out and make something of yourself. The beautiful thing about our campus, however, is that with many students come many opportunities. You have to trust that, whatever your interests are, there are clubs, organizations, societies, professors and most important, other students who will allow you to pursue those interests.

With that in mind, I would respectfully offer several brief pieces of advice:

1. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and make yourself feel uncomfortable. While we are drawn toward the things that comfort us, we only learn when we are uncomfortable and when we are forced to reevaluate what we believe and why we believe it.

2. Talk to the people around you. You will fall in love (intellectually and philosophically, that is!) with your fellow students and professors. They can and will help you become the best version of



DEANNA FERRANTE, CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Christopher Clemente and Rachel Altfield burst into tears as they are announced the winners of SGA's presidency and vice presidency outside the Student Union on March 30.

yourself.

3. It is never too late to get involved and to make a difference in your life or in the life of someone else. UCF has so many opportunities in which you can get involved anytime you want, and you real-

ly can make a difference.

4. Never hesitate to reach out to me or anyone else in Student Government for assistance.

Warmest regards,
Christopher J. Clemente

KNIGHTS

DO YOU STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO PROVE?

UCF Varsity Rowing Team Tryouts - No Experience Necessary

Janaye Radtke
Winter Park HS
2-time letterwinning goalie

Jessica Hewkin
Seminole HS
Model United Nations
National Honor Society

Caitlin Matthews
Oviedo HS
2-time letterwinner in track and field
lettered in cross country

Michelle Haves
Lake Mary HS
3-time letterwinner midfielder
lettered as a middle hitter

Margaret Lahmeyer
Miami Springs Senior HS
letterwinner in basketball and golf
Honorable Mention accolades for basketball

Informational meeting: WEDNESDAY, 8/24/2016 -OR- THURSDAY, 8/25/2016 @ 7PM
in the Wayne Densch Center for Student Athlete Leadership (next to the football stadium)

Parking can be a pain; plan ahead

BERNARD WILCHUSKY
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Let's pull this Band-Aid off quickly: If you're a UCF student, parking is going to stress you out. Complaining about parking is a school tradition. There are 18,263 parking spots on a campus that boasts a population upward of 60,000 students.

But before you can gripe about the time you spend looking for a spot, you'll need to pick up a pass to even park on campus; otherwise, you're stuck using the metered parking in the 10 parking garages and various lots along the outskirts of campus or the free visitor parking in Garage F by the Towers.

Parking passes can be purchased online or at the Parking Services center in Garage B. They come in the form of a decal, which is placed on your rear window or bumper, or a hang tag. Passes allow you to park within certain spaces, which are designated by a color and letter. The cheapest passes are around \$50 per semester, and you have the option to purchase passes that are valid for multiple semesters.

At the beginning of the year, there are often long lines of students waiting at Parking Services to pick up their passes.

If you want to avoid the wait, buy your pass early and have it mailed.

If you're a commuting student, you'll be purchasing a green pass that will allow you to park in green zones marked with the letter D. This allows you to park in most garages and many lots that dot the outer circumference of the school.

If you live on campus, you'll be purchasing a special resident pass. These come in R, KL and KP flavors, depending on whether you live in the Academic Village dormitories, Lake Claire or the Towers, respectively. These passes will allow you to park in special reserved spots near your residence halls, in addition to the D parking spaces available to commuting students.

University employees are able to purchase A, B and C permits. These comprise the lots closest to the heart of campus. These spots are generally marked "Reserved 24 Hours," red or blue.

Motorcyclists with a motorcycle decal are able to park in special spaces dotted throughout campus. These are often closer to campus and less busy than traditional parking spots. Notable spots include the raised island by Millican Hall, a set of spots ringed by a brick wall near the Health and Public Affairs building



NICOLE DUDENHOEFER / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Faculty members have to pay more than twice the amount students pay for parking.

and a series of spots near the Counseling Center.

If you decide not to get a pass, allow your pass to expire, park in the wrong spot or let your parking meter run out, there's a strong likelihood that you'll be returning to find a ticket on your windshield. Parking services has a number of mobile teams that visit the garages and lots to scan for expired permits and other parking violations. Failure to pay the ticket within 10 days will result in holds being placed on your access to university services, such as your ability to register for classes. Fines amounts vary, but

are generally upwards of \$30.

Most lots and garages have parking terminals that allow visitors to purchase temporary parking passes by the hour or day. These are often located near the stairwells of garages or in the corners of parking lots. There are also several card- and-coin capable metered spots near Millican Hall, the Duke Energy UCF Welcome Center and the shops near Knights Plaza.

If you're having difficulty finding parking in the garages or lots, you might try your luck with the university's new Park and Ride system. The park and ride lot is located near the softball stadium at the rear of campus, just east of the Towers and Arena and south of the Bright House Stadium. A shuttle runs from this lot to the Health and Public Affairs building from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Certain parking garages will be shut down to accommodate outside traffic during special events, such as game days or arena shows. The university sends out alerts several days prior to the shut-downs that indicate when and where parking will be restricted.

TRANSPORTATION

Ditch your car, utilize the shuttle

PAIGE WILSON
Central Florida Future

No car? No problem.

Not having a car in college might seem like an inconvenience, but it's very doable. UCF offers a variety of different transportation methods that allow students to get around campus and Orlando.

The **Black and Gold line** shuttles run like clockwork — literally. The Black route runs clockwise around campus, while the Gold route runs counter-clockwise. These shuttles can save you from walking to class across campus in the rain, or relieve you from walking home from the gym after leg day. The lines operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer semester, the buses run from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on class days except on Friday.

Live off campus? The **UCF off-campus shuttles** transport students to and from 20 UCF-area apartment complexes and Central Florida Research Park. The

shuttles run from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and pick up from various locations around campus. Every 15 minutes, the shuttles make their rounds, so plan accordingly.

The **Saturday off-campus shuttle** runs every 30 minutes and picks up from the bus stop at the Student Union located at Aquarius Agora Drive. This shuttle runs during the summer, fall and spring terms.

UCF even provides a **grocery shuttle** on Tuesdays. Every 45 minutes from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., shuttles are available to take students to the Publix Super Market located at the University Palms Shopping Center. Pick-up and drop-off occurs at the on-campus stops at 63 South, Academic Village (Nike), Towers (front of CFE Arena) and Lake Claire.

The **Rosen College shuttle** departs and returns to the main campus at the roundabout of Pegasus Circle and Aquarius Agora Drive near the Student

Union and Classroom Building I. During the summer semester, the buses depart from Rosen every two hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and depart from the UCF main campus every two hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fall and spring buses operate with longer hours.

The **Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona** is no exception to the shuttle schedule. These shuttles travel from 7:20 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Saturday schedule consists of shuttles that depart from the Biomolecular Research Annex and transport to the Health Services Campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the reverse route from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Students can ride the **Game Day shuttles** from all normally serviced apartment complexes — except for Tivoli and Northgate due to their close proximity to the stadium.

Shuttle schedules can be found online

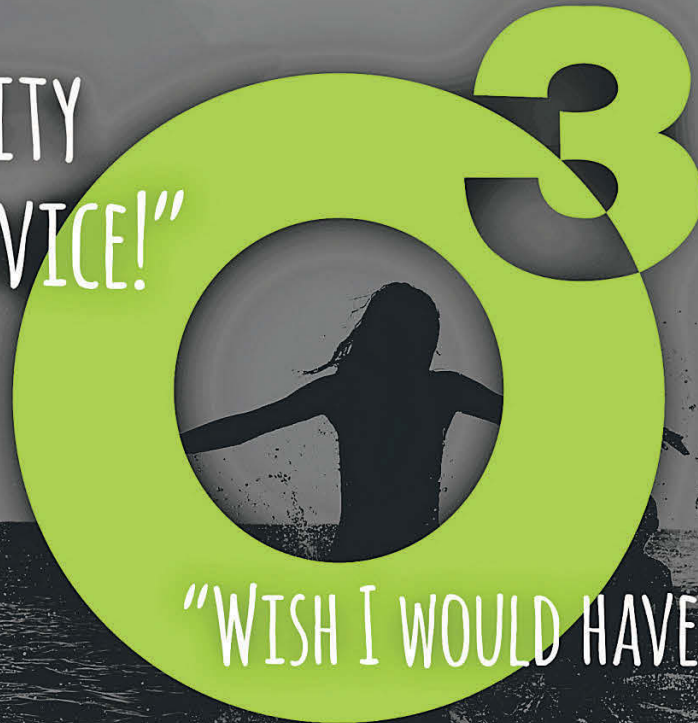
at parking.ucf.edu/shuttles. Schedules may be altered for the summer terms according to the UCF Transportation Visitors Information Center.

KnightLYNX was launched during the spring 2011 semester and provides a safe, reliable public transportation service on and near the UCF campus. The service is free for UCF students with a valid student ID.

The **Blue Line** runs from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday and extends into East Orlando, along Waterford Lakes Town Center and back onto campus.

The **Red and Green lines** operate from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Green line stays near campus by traveling from Knights Plaza onto McCulloch and Alafaya Trail up until Central Florida Boulevard. The Red line heads toward West Orlando down Alafaya Trail to 408, then rides along Downtown Orlando.

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ALEX STORER

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

UCF, being the second-largest university in the United States, provides a plethora of different resources and services to its students. In case it seems overwhelming or you're not sure where to go, here's a rundown of some of the most popular and important services on the UCF campus.

1. Health Center Located on Apollo Circle near the Chemistry and Mathematical Sciences buildings, the Health Center comes complete with a pharmacy for prescription medications, a drug-store for over-the-counter medications and toiletries and several clinics offering general health care, women's care, stress management, dietitians, sports medicine, dentistry and more. According to the Student Health Services website, "the health fee [paid by all students] covers patient financial responsibility associated with most Health Center office visits (for example, when a medical provider evaluates a sick patient but

does not order any tests, procedures or prescriptions)." There is a smaller secondary Health Center location on West Plaza Drive, which is much closer for students living in Towers or Lake Claire housing.

2. Student Government Association SGA consists of elected student officials who oversee a sizeable budget every year that is usually invested into the student experience in several different ways. The SGA office on the second floor of the Student Union offers one free Scantron sheet or blue essay book per day to every student. While you're in the office, you can ask to meet with your elected student government representative and share any questions or concerns you might have.

3. Recreation and Wellness Center The RWC is located on the south side of campus on Gemini Boulevard across the street from the Libra parking lot. The RWC, which is free for tuition-paying students, has a short-course lap pool that's open year round, a 41-foot-high

climbing tower, a fitness floor, a free-weight floor, a cardio floor, a 1/8-mile track and four basketball courts. Other services include group exercise classes, intramural sports and equipment rentals. There is a much smaller location on West Plaza Drive that only includes cardio and fitness equipment.

4. Printing and Computer Labs The SGA Express Print Lab, located on the first floor of the Student Union in the center of campus, offers quick printing services to UCF students. Walk in, present your UCF ID and they will point you to the nearest available computer. In the Express Print Lab, there's a time limit of 20 minutes to keep things running quickly and smoothly. In the SGA Computer Lab, located on the second floor, there are computers, printers, scanners, and a fax machine for your use without a time limit. Every UCF student gets a printing allowance of \$2 every week, which can purchase up to 100 pages of black-and-white printing.

5. Office of Student Involvement Do

you want to get involved, make friends or make a difference? OSI is the place to get started. At last count there were 662 clubs and registered student organizations at UCF. These include clubs dedicated to certain hobbies, sports or activities, performance teams, political organizations, service clubs and more.

6. The Library The John C. Hitt Library, located by the Reflecting Pond, offers more than just books. The five-story building also has private study rooms that can be reserved online, printers, copiers and scanners, and a technology desk on the third floor where students can rent laptop computers, cameras, charging cables and headphones.

7. All Knight Study Since the library's hours can be limited, SGA maintains two 24-hour study locations on campus. All-Knight Study@Ferrell Commons is open Monday-Friday, while All-Knight Study@Knights Plaza (attached to the west side of the CFE Arena) is open seven days a week. These locations include computers and free printing.

UCF Student Health Services

Your Most Affordable Health Care Resource



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Women's Care



Clinical Dietitian



Psychiatry Services



X-Ray & Laboratory



Physical Therapy



Allergy Clinic



Immunizations & Travel Clinic



Massage Therapy



Student Health Services at Knights Plaza



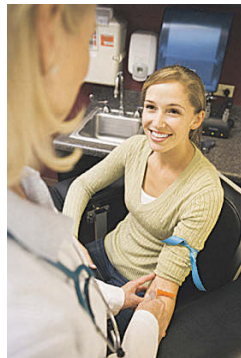
Dental Center



Alcohol & Other Drugs Intervention



After-hours Referrals



Two convenient locations on campus:
Student Health Services Main Building



Student Health Services at Knights Plaza

UCF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
A department in the division of SDES

407.823.2701
www.studenthealth.ucf.edu

FT-00059896

Knights, welcome to Orientation!

FYE STAFF

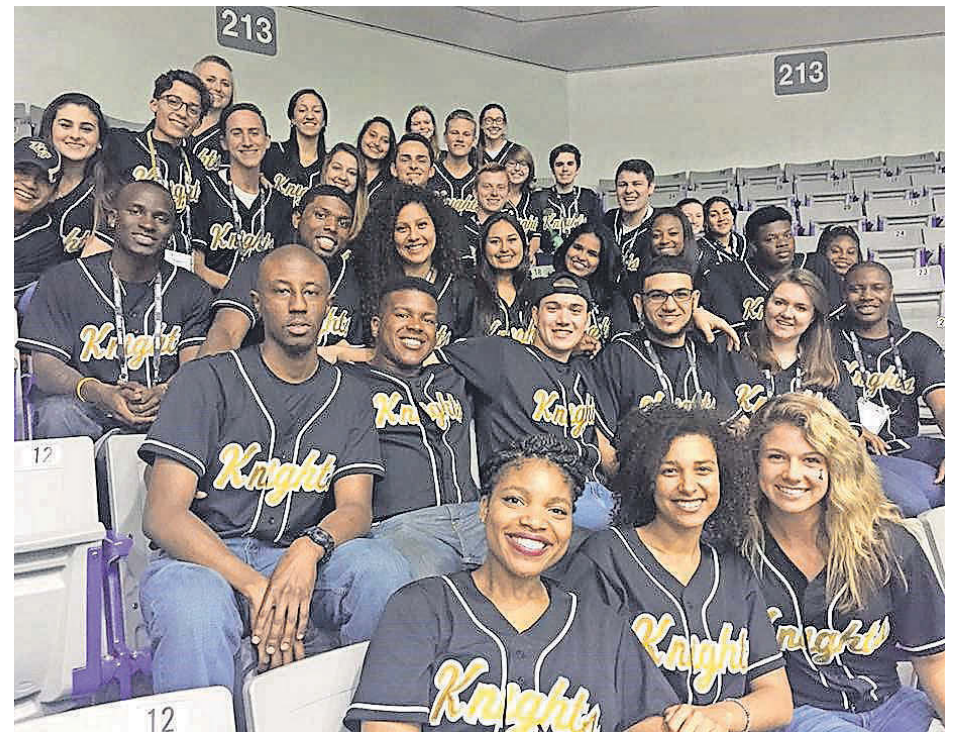
Welcome to 2016 Orientation, Knights! We are excited to meet you as you begin your journey at the University of Central Florida. Orientation is designed to help you become a part of the University community both academically and socially. Our program is aimed to make you feel adequately equipped for the beginning of your college career. During Orientation, you will have the opportunity to meet many people that will serve as resources in your first semester: your academic adviser, your O-Teamer and other students who are also just beginning at UCF.

O-Teamers are current UCF students who will mentor you through the transition of becoming a Knight. They can show you all that campus has to offer, share their experiences so far at UCF, and answer questions you have. Their goal is to give you a newfound apprecia-

tion for our university and an enthusiasm for the many traditions that you will be able to experience in the coming years. If you are interested in becoming a part of next year's O-Team, visit www.ucfoteam.com. Applications will be available in October!

We encourage you to connect with us while at Orientation, and afterwards, via social media. Use #UCFNewKnights in your posts to engage in conversation with fellow new students. Additionally, find us on Facebook at "UCF First Year Experience," or at @UCF_FYE on Twitter and Instagram.

After Orientation, we want you to be well informed about all of the resources UCF offers and to be confident in your decision to make UCF your home. The First Year Experience office would like to extend our thanks and welcome you to the best university in the nation. Go Knights and Charge on!



UCF's Orientation Team for 2016.

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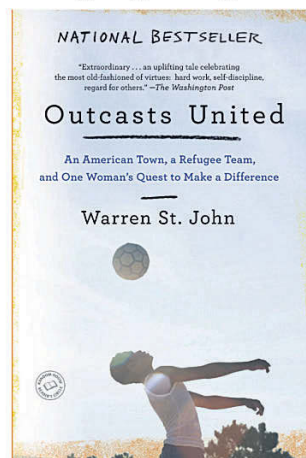
bring this ad and waive all app fees

Common Reading

A Freshmen Tradition



ON A COOL SPRING AFTERNOON at a soccer field in northern Georgia, two teams of teenage boys were going through their



pregame warm-ups when the heavens began to shake. The rumble grew louder and soon a cluster of darts appeared in the sky. It was a precision flying squadron of fighter jets, performing at an air show miles away in Atlanta.

On the field below, the two groups of boys watched the spectacle with craned necks, and from different perspectives. The players of the home team—boys from the nearby Atlanta suburbs—gestured to the

sky and wore expressions of awe.

The boys at the other end of the field were members of an all-refugee soccer team called the Fugees. Many had actually seen the machinery of war in action, and all had felt its awful consequences firsthand. There were Sudanese players whose villages had been bombed by the Sudanese Air Force, and Liberians who'd lived through barrages of mortar fire that pierced the roofs

of their neighbors' homes, taking out whole families. As the jets flew by the field, several members of the Fugees flinched.

“YOU GUYS NEED to wake up!” a voice interrupted as the jets streaked into the distance. “Concentrate!” The voice belonged to Luma Mufleh, the thirty-one-year-old founder and volunteer coach of the Fugees.

She was speaking to a young Liberian forward

named Christian Jackson. A month before, he had lost three siblings and a young cousin in a fire at his family's apartment in Clarkston, east of Atlanta. Christian escaped by jumping through an open window. The smallest of the dead children was found under a charred mattress, an odd detail to investigators. But it was explained that during Liberia's fourteen years of civil war, children were taught to take cover under their beds during the fighting, as a precaution against bullets and mortar shrapnel. For the typical American child, “under the bed” was the realm of ghosts and monsters. For a child from a war zone, it was supposed to be the safest place of all.

Outcasts United introduction

The Common Reading Program provides all freshmen (FTIC) students the unique opportunity to participate in a program as a community- a community of 7,000!

During Orientation, all incoming FTIC students will receive a copy of the Common Reading book and are expected to read it over summer.

Throughout the year, various events will be scheduled that relate to the book and its topic, with a chance for students to participate as a community.

This year's book is *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John. A story of an unlikely soccer team made up of refugees from all over the world that ended up in the same small, southern town. It is a wonderful story of resilience, creating community in the face of adversity, and the power of one



Mark your calendar for a special opportunity to hear from the Coach in the book, Luma Mufleh!
September 27th, 6 PM

Important Websites
-fye.sdes.ucf.edu/commonreading
-outcastsunited.com
-fugeesfamily.org

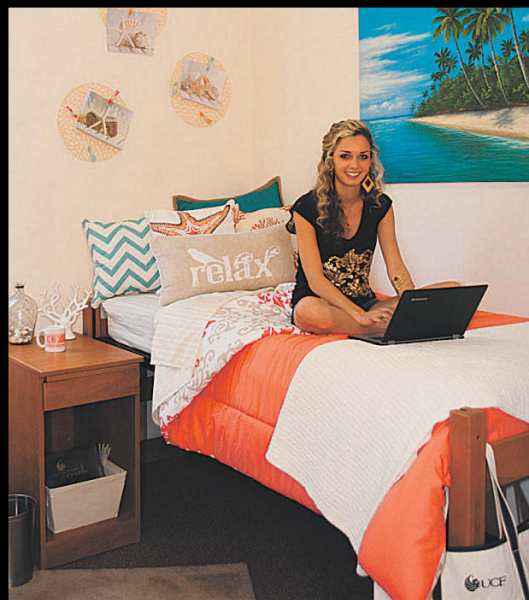
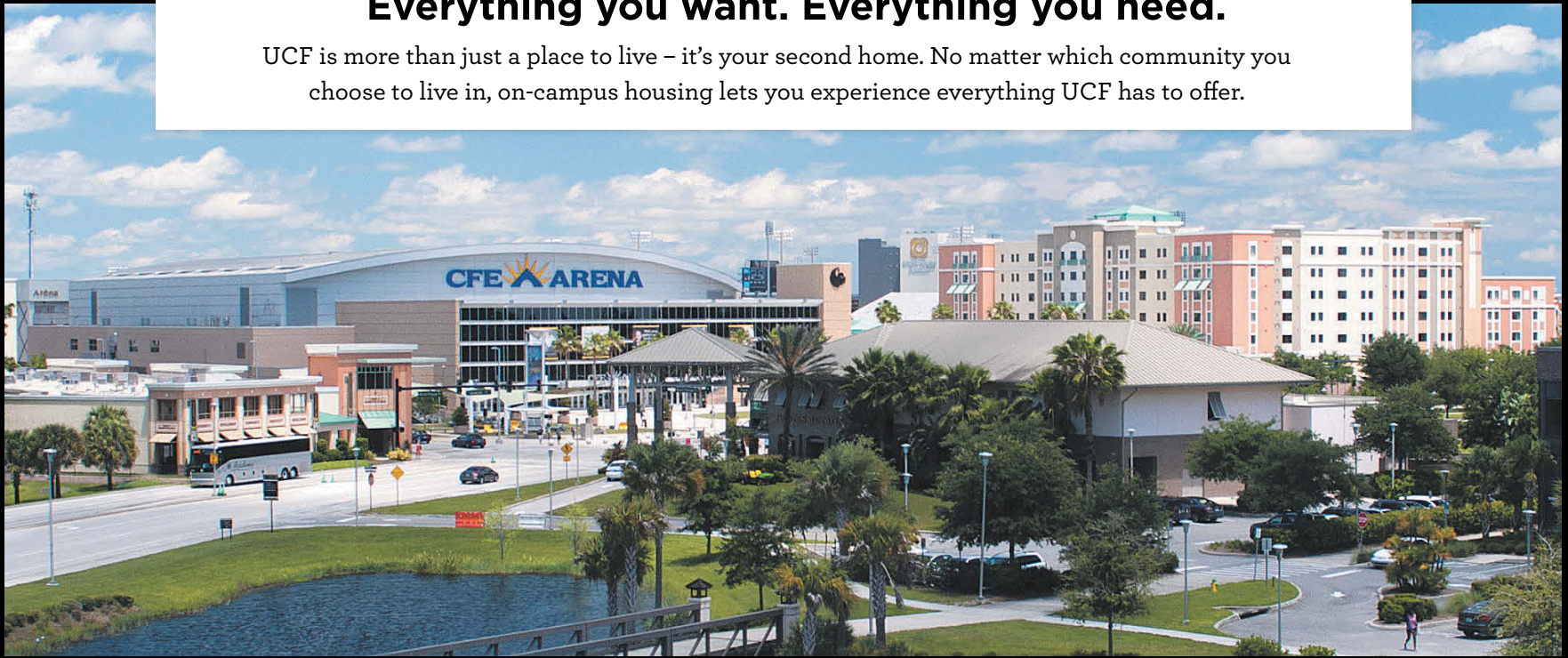
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www.housing.ucf.edu

FT-0000560006

We all contribute to campus safety

RICHARD BEARY
UCF POLICE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women of the UCF Police Department, I welcome you to UCF.

UCF is the second-largest university in the country, and you'll quickly realize that it feels like a small city. UCF is a diverse but tight-knit community of people who have one thing in common: a dedication to learning.

UCFPD's priority is keeping UCF a safe place to learn, to live, to work and to visit, and I ask that you be our partner in campus safety.

Safety is something that each of us plays a role in. From the officers who patrol campus 24/7 to the students who recognize suspicious activity and report it to police, we must all do our part in creating a campus environment where everybody is enabled to reach their full potentials.

Over the years, UCF has changed, and UCFPD also has adapted to best serve the needs of our community. Officers receive rigorous, comprehensive training



COURTESY
COURTNEY
GILMARTIN
UCF Police
Chief Richard
Beary

on everything from interacting with people with mental health issues to active shooters. We use social media to connect with students, and we reach out to our community through text messages in the event of an emergency. UCFPD also offers more programming than ever before to best educate students about how to protect themselves and their property.

I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about campus safety.

While UCF is a very safe place, opportunity for crime always exists everywhere. Our goal is to keep UCF secure but also to educate you about basic ways

to stay safe both on campus and off.

First, stay aware of your surroundings. Vigilance is key because by keeping an eye out on what is going on around you, you are better able to think and act quickly if necessary and notice potentially dangerous activity.

Especially at night, avoid walking by yourself. On campus, UCFPD's Safe Escort Patrol Service, or SEPS, can transport you from location to location safely and with a buddy. I highly recommend that you plug 407-823-2424 into your phone and utilize the free, seven-night-a-week SEPS program.

If you must walk alone at night, be sure to let a friend or family member know where you're going and when you arrive, and keep your cell phone and car keys in your hands as you walk.

Also keep in mind that UCF is an open, public campus visited by thousands of people each year. Just as you wouldn't leave your property unattended at other large public spaces, such as a shopping center or an airport, you should not leave your things on their own at UCF.

Remember to look out for each other.

Important contacts

UCFPD 407-823-5555	Counseling and Psychological Services
Victim Services 407-823-1200	407-823-2811
UCF Cares 407-823-5607	

Be good friends and good people by stepping in or calling for help if you see a peer going through something or if you witness a situation that seems off.

Finally, be sure to take care of yourself. Starting college is an exciting transition that also can be challenging and overwhelming. Do not be afraid to speak up and ask for help if you are struggling. Our partners in Counseling and Psychological Services and UCF Cares are here for you.

I am happy you are here, and I wish you the best in your academic, career and personal pursuits at UCF and in the future.

Stay safe and do well.

YETI

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LGBT students can easily find home on campus

ADAM RHODES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Welcome to orientation! No, not *that* orientation. Your orientation. Whether you're queer or questioning, lesbian, gay, transgender or some or none of the above, the UCF campus has a place for you, I promise.

In fact, in 2014, UCF was named one of the most LGBT-friendly colleges in the nation by Campus Pride, making it the only university in Florida to grace the list.

You may be just discovering or experimenting with your sexuality or it may be old hat. Regardless, UCF is specifically designed to make you feel safe and at home at the university, whether you want to go to a drag show, learn more about the trans community or just need a safe space. We've got you covered.

Some campus resources, such as Equal, the student-run organization on campus, and LGBTQ+ Services, the campus resource center, are more overtly geared toward the LGBTQ+ population on campus.

The Health Center is another one. Just because we may, note I say may, be free from the risk of pregnancy, that doesn't mean safe sex can fly out the window.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2013, gay and bisexual men accounted for 81 percent of the roughly 37,887 HIV diagnoses among those 13 and older. In 2011, only 49 percent of gay and bisexual men ages 18 to 24 knew they had been infected. And women aren't free from HIV either.

Luckily, the UCF Health Center has a little blue pill to help prevent that: Truvada, known as PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis. This one little pill, if taken every day as directed, has the potential to decrease your risk of HIV infection by 92 to 99 percent, according to men.prepfacts.org. While it's certainly not a cure or 100 percent effective, it's how I'm staying safe and if it's right for you, it's how you can stay safe as well.

Like it or not, the LGBTQ+ community is a population with some special challenges facing us, you know, besides Trump. The key is to be informed not



DEANNA FERRANTE / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Cameron Bechard, a freshman forensic science major, dramatically steps through the rainbow-colored doorway at the Multicultural Student Center's National Coming Out Day

only about what you're up against but how you can keep yourself safe.

While keeping your body healthy is important, so is keeping your mind.

The National Alliance on Mental Health reports that LGBTQ+ individuals

are almost three times as likely as our heterosexual counterparts to experience a mental health issue such as anxiety or depression; now add that to alarming young LGBTQ+ suicide and self-harm rates and we've got a scary cocktail. But once again, the UCF Knights are outfitted with just the right artillery to battle that beast.

UCF's Counseling and Psychological Services has five different people, between the administrative staff and clinic staff who have specialized skills regarding the LGBTQ+ community. If a one-on-one session isn't your thing though, there are group workshops that also tailor to the LGBTQ+ community you can utilize as well.

But being LGBT on campus isn't all doom and gloom, I promise. You're stepping onto a campus that goes out of its way to make sure you're safe and excited to be here.

So welcome, new Knights. Just because you've got a little bit of rainbow mixed in with you black and gold doesn't mean you deserve to be here any less. We're happy to have you.

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FROM THE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

CHEER ON THE KNIGHTS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET



COURTESY UCF ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

UCF Athletics Director Danny White

DANNY WHITE
UCF DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

It's a truly exciting time here at UCF. When you read this, I will have been on campus full-time for a little more than six months as of this writing and every day I'm learning more and more about this amazing university. I truly believe we're all extremely fortunate to be UCF Knights.

We're currently wrapping up a successful spring sports season. But we're also getting excited for this coming fall and an entirely new year of Knights sporting events.

Orientation is also full of excitement. If you're reading this edition of the *Central Florida Future*, chances are you're one of our newest Knights. So, on behalf of UCF Athletics, let me be among the first to welcome you to your new Black &

Gold family.

I am personally inviting you to take advantage of one of the great perks of being a student here at UCF. Each of our students receives free admission to every UCF home regular-season sporting event just by showing your student identification card.

It is vitally important to us that our student body comes out to support our teams. The gameday atmosphere inside our venues truly starts and stops with the student body. When you're into the game, the entire crowd gets that much more excited.

You can truly make a difference in the outcome of the game by being there, supporting the Knights and cheering as loud as you possibly can. Student-athletes, who are your peers, feed off that support from the fans, and especially from their fellow students. It means a ton to them to know that the people they see every day

walking around campus, sitting next to them in class or waiting in line with them for lunch are there cheering for them, showing their school pride. As a former student-athlete myself, I have felt the sort of energy that flows from a great home student section. At UCF, we call the student section the Knightmare and you can be just that for our opponents.

Speaking of the Knightmare, visit KnightmareRewards.com where you can earn points and perks just for attending UCF sporting events.

You're going to create numerous wonderful memories during your time at UCF. I encourage you to make sure some of those great times you'll look back on years from now are from the truly unique experience of sharing your team's victory as part of a packed stadium or arena. For many people, some of the greatest lifelong connections they have to their alma mater are through ath-

letics. Don't miss out on these opportunities. Grab some friends and cheer on the Knights every chance you get.

As you look down the road to this fall, here are a few key dates to keep in mind. Family Weekend is set for Sept. 16-18. Your Knights football team will be hosting Maryland on Sept. 17 at Bright House Networks Stadium. The Family Weekend game is always one of the most heavily attended games of the season, so make your plans early.

Homecoming week is another huge event in the fall. This year, Homecoming week is set for Oct. 9-15, with the Homecoming football game set for Oct. 15 versus Temple.

We look forward to seeing you around campus this summer and fall, and at Knights sporting events throughout the year.

Go Knights ... and Charge On!

FUTURE OF UCF FOOTBALL

DANIEL UTHMAN
USA Today Sports

Incoming freshman, you're coming onto the UCF sports scene at an interesting time. The Knights football team is coming off a winless season that saw the retirement of its head coach since 2004, George O'Leary.

Taking his place in December was Scott Frost, one of the greatest athletes in the state of Nebraska's and former Oregon offensive coordinator, where he coached the legendary Marcus Mariota.

USA Today Sports chatted with Frost about his plans for the team:

You mentioned some things, like the size and the chance to win. What were some things that over time you had decided you had to see in a program to want to be its head coach?

Winning is the biggest thing. I'm taking nothing away from any coaches out there, it's not an accident that coaches at Alabama, Ohio State, Florida and USC,



COURTESY UCF ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS
New coach Scott Frost will try to turn around a UCF team that went 0-12 last season.

those type of programs win. Not to say they're not great coaches, but those places are built to attract better players than most or all of the people they play, year in, year out. Not that it's a given that you're going to win at those places, but it's easier. It's easier to win at Alabama than it is at Iowa State.

What is it like recruiting, particularly being located in that geographic area, compared to the recruiting you've done over the past six or seven years?

One of the things that drew me to the job is I knew I could run a version of our

offense that was practically identical to Oregon's because we can recruit that type of player here.

I don't think you could run Oregon's offense at Wisconsin; I don't know if you would get enough guys that can run well enough to do it. In Orlando, Florida, there's fast guys in high schools in every direction in close proximity that are already running systems in high school that are similar to this and should want to play in it.

UCF has been ranked as having one of the two best recruiting classes in the American, and you put it together in essentially two months. Are there players in that class you are expecting to contribute immediately in 2016?

We're expecting a lot of them to contribute, but you never know with freshman. It's not really talent that decides all the time whether they play or not, it's how quickly they adapt to college, the speed of the game, how quickly they learn the scheme offensively or defensively, and how aggressively they attack it.

Obviously, coming off an 0 and 12 team, we've got some really good players, but there's some holes to fill. We're going to give those freshman every

chance to compete. We're really holding our breath that a lot of them can come in and help us, especially in certain position groups. We're doing everything we can to get them prepared before they get here to be ready to contribute.

What was the most meaningful thing that came out of spring practice or something that is important to you that you already feel good about?

I thought it would take a long time to get our players to practice at the speed and tempo and pace that Oregon did. It took a while at Oregon to get it to where we wanted it. I thought coming into a new place, I always wondered how long it would take for guys to understand the way we wanted to work on a practice field. These guys, I couldn't believe it they bought in immediately.

I think coming off an 0 and 12 season, those are hard, they're hard on players, coaches, players, everyone. I think our players needed to find some confidence again, I think they needed to believe in who they were as players, who they were as a team, the process we were putting them through and that it could get them where they wanted to go. Sometimes coming off a tough season, I think you also need to find your love for the game again.

RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

WHERE KNIGHTS GO TO PLAY!

rec.ucf.edu

Facebook: UCF Recreation and Wellness Center

@UCFRWC

RWC HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon - Thur	6:00am - Midnight
Friday	6:00am - 10:00pm*
Saturday	9:00am - 9:00pm
Sunday	11:00am - Midnight

6:00am - 9:00pm in the summer

RWC @ KNIGHTS PLAZA HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon - Thur	9:00am - 1:00am
Fri - Sun	9:00am - 10:00pm

Lowest membership rates ever for:
Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and UCF Affiliates.

WE ARE MORE THAN JUST A GYM

The UCF Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) comprises many programs, such as Intramural Sports, Sport Clubs, Outdoor Adventure, Fitness, and Aquatics. The RWC is open to all students; paid memberships are available for non-students.

The RWC offers a vast array of state-of-the-art facilities, includes a custom climbing wall, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a disc golf course, numerous intramural sports fields, a leisure pool, and an outdoor lap pool.

- 6 multipurpose courts
- 1/8 mile track
- 4 racquetball courts
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- Multipurpose room
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- Outdoor Adventure Center
- 4 sand volleyball courts
- 3 basketball courts
- Softball/Baseball fields
- 9 tennis courts
- 9 hole disc golf course
- Challenge Course
- 2 multipurpose grass fields
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2016-17 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



CAROLINE GLENN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

A loss to FIU in the Knights' season-opener, which ended the team's 10-game winning streak, set the tone for last year's disastrous 0-12 season.

With each passing week, the team saw more and more players go, including Joey Grant, Jordan Akins and William Stanback. Starting quarterback Justin Holman was replaced with a slew of young players after sustaining an injury to his throwing hand.

Attendance at the FIU match-up set a new school record, but gradually fewer and fewer fans showed up to the games, with most leaving before halftime.

Finally, the Knights said goodbye to their head coach since 2004, George O'Leary, and welcomed newcomer Scott Frost, former offensive coordinator at Oregon.

Alongside new Athletics Director Danny White, Frost has worked to turn the team around and put excitement back in its fanbase.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

vs. South Carolina State



SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

@ Michigan



SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

@ FIU



SATURDAY, OCT. 1

@ East Carolina*



FRIDAY, OCT. 7

vs. Tulane*



SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

vs. Maryland (Family Weekend)



SATURDAY, OCT. 15

vs. Temple*
(Homecoming)





SATURDAY, OCT. 22

@ UConn*



SATURDAY, OCT. 29

@ Houston*



SATURDAY, NOV. 12

vs. Cincinnati*



SATURDAY, NOV. 19

vs. Tulsa*



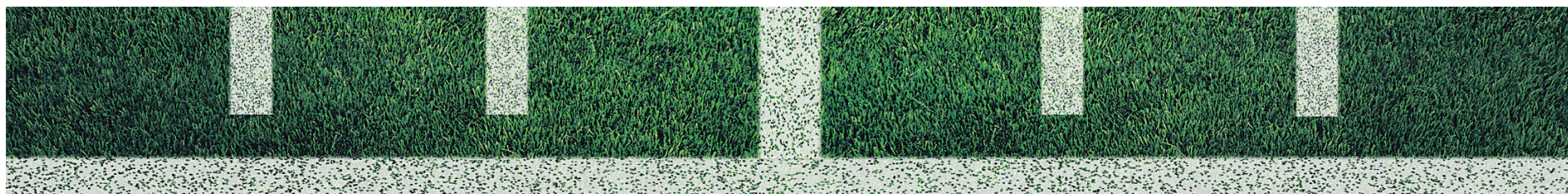
SATURDAY, NOV. 26

@ USF*

BYE WEEK: NOV. 5

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

AAC Championship Game
*American Athletic Conference game



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GO KNIGHTS!



CFF ARCHIVE

After a touchdown, fans often throw someone in the air to match the points on the board.

GAMEDAY TRADITIONS

MATTHEW C SAUNDERS

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Sports traditions at universities are something that connects the past with the present. Though we here at UCF have not had the time to grow in the rich tradition that some schools have, we still have what makes us the Knights.

In football, there are many different traditions the crowd participates in at each game at Bright House Networks Stadium.

If you have attended a UCF football game you know the famous Zombie Nation song that is played, accompanied by a "U-C-F Knights!" every so often. When the Knights get a first down you can hear the PA announcer recap the play followed by a "that'll move those chains good enough for another UCF first down" in which the fans simultaneously shout "first down!"

Every time the Knights kick off, fans yell "aaaawww U-C-F Knights!" as the ball is kicked. You can also see Knightro walking the sidelines with a giant set of keys encouraging the black and gold faithful to take out their keys and jingle them at the visiting team urging them to hit the road.

Football may be the most popular sport, but it is not the only one that has its traditions here at UCF.

Basketball has its own share of traditions for fans to take part in. At the start

of each game when the opposing team's starting lineup is announced, fans yell out "who?" after each opposing player's name is read. Fans in the CFE Arena also remain standing after the start of the game until the Knights score a basket.

When the Knights make a free throw, the Nightmare section, as well as other fans, stomp the ground twice then clap twice followed by a "woosh U-C-F." If two free throws are made consecutively, fans will follow up that gesture with a "ballin!"

Another sport with some traditions during games are UCF baseball games. Football is not the only sport with tailgating, as Knights fans line the outfield with trucks to catch UCF in action at Jay Bergman Field.

After a strikeout of an opposing player, fans shout "left, right, left, right" as the batter takes steps into the away dugout. When he reaches the dugout, the fans finally yell "sit down!"

One of my favorite traditions at baseball games is the tailgaters in the outfield and their tradition of heckling opposing outfielders throughout the game.

Being a Division I sports program, there is always a sporting event to see around campus. Knowing these traditions will make your gameday experience a lot more fun, as well as help encourage your Knights to charge on to victory.

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UCF ATHLETES TO KNOW

CHRISTOPHER D DAVIS

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Women's Softball

Senior Linnea Goodman has had a major impact for the Knights ever since she came to Orlando as a freshman. The California native led the team in batting average and hits in her sophomore campaign batting .356 with 73 hits. The former All-American Athletic Conference first team selection will look to continue her success in her final season at UCF.

Men's Baseball

Senior infielder Austin Griffin is one of the Knights top sluggers. Griffin leads the team with eight home runs this season and has a slug percentage of 532.

Senior relief pitcher Robby Howell has been rock solid on the mound this season. Howell has a 1.14 ERA and is 7-0 this season in games he's pitched.

Football

Although 2015 was an abysmal season for the football program, there's still some players who will be impactful coming into the Scott Frost era this fall.

Senior 6-foot-4, 213-pound quarterback Justin Holman looks to control the reigns for UCF at quarterback this season. Holman started nine games in 2015 after battling injuries in the beginning of the year. He finished 127-for-150, finishing with a 50.8 completion percentage along with seven touchdowns and 1,379 passing yards.

Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Tre' Quan Smith will be one of Holman's primary targets under the new regime. Smith had a team-high 52 receptions and 724 total yards in 2015-16.

Men's Soccer

Junior midfielder Matias Pyysalo had a stellar 2015. Pyysalo tallied 20 points and eight assists for the Knights, who finished second to current MLS player, Hadji Barry, who is currently a member of the Orlando City Soccer team.

Women's Soccer

Senior forward Carol Rodrigues is definitely one of the Knights' primary difference makers on the team. Rodrigues led the team with 28 points and six



AARON DOSTER / USA TODAY SPORTS

Quarterback Justin Holman carries the ball in the first half against the Cincinnati Bearcats on Oct. 31.

assists last season. Rodrigues earned the American Athletic Conference Co-Offensive Player of the Year and a First Team Honoree in 2015.

Redshirt junior midfielder Kayla Adamek is coming off of a season in which she tallied 18 points and six assists, landing her on the American Athletic Conference first team last season.

Men's Basketball

Redshirt junior forward A.J. Davis demonstrated that he's an extremely skilled wing with an all-around skillset. Davis, the 6-foot-9 southpaw, averaged 12 points, six rebounds, and three assists in his first full season with the Knights. Davis was one of three players in the AAC to rank in the top 20 in points, rebounds and assists.

Controlling the paint at 7-foot-6, 300 pounds is sophomore center Tacko Fall. Fall really came on for the Knights last season, finishing with a season average of 7.4 points, six rebounds and 2.3 blocks in his first season. Fall set a new UCF sin-

gle-season record for field goal percentage, shooting 75 percent from the field in his freshman season.

Women's Basketball

Senior guard Zykira Lewis is the Knights top sharp shooter. Lewis averaged 14.2 points, with a team-high 68 three-pointers made. Lewis currently ranks second on the all-time three-point field goals list with 191 and sixth in all-time scoring with 1,356 points. In her sophomore campaign, she was awarded a spot on the American Athletic Conference Second Team after averaging 18.9 points in 35.3 minutes per game, both ranking second among AAC leaders.

Junior guard Aliyah Gregory has been Lewis's running mate in the backcourt the last couple years. Gregory averaged 10 points and 3.7 rebounds in her second season with the Knights. Gregory scored her career-high 33 points in a win versus Houston in the final home game of the season.



MATTHEW SAUNDERS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Knights' freshman center Tacko Fall dunks the ball in the first half against East Carolina University. UCF prevailed 89-67.

KNOW THE RULES WHEN IT COMES TO TAILGATING

JEAN RACINE

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Tailgating before football games is part of the college experience, and it is a UCF tradition to grill out, play games and have a genuine good time before the Knights take the field.

If you walk around the UCF campus on any given game day, you can find alumni, students, faculty and families of the players donning black and gold, celebrating from noon if the game is set to kick off at 6 p.m. or as early as 8 a.m. if the game is scheduled before 6 p.m.

The UCF Police Department will not allow tailgating before those times, and tailgating is not allowed in the parking garages. The most prominent place to tailgate is on Memory Mall, a giant grass field between the Student Union and the CFE Arena, although it is also allowed in designated parking lots and Lake Claire.

A key reminder: It is required to reserve tailgating spots on Memory Mall. The spots are reserved on a game-by-game basis through the Knights on the Mall website and go fast, so be on the

lookout for when reservations are open.

Tailgating is a joyful experience for people because there are many different activities around campus, such as the Marching Knights performing on Memory Mall. For some students, tailgating is a better experience than the actual game itself.

Alcohol is permitted for those 21 and older, but glass containers are not allowed, drinking games are not permitted and alcohol is not allowed inside Bright House Network Stadium — except for drinks purchased at the Carl Black and Gold Cabana.

Rules are strictly enforced, and there are consequences for breaking the rules. Some consequences include academic probation or being arrested. Undercover cops are out there and will be on the lookout for all sorts of mischief on campus, especially underage drinking.

Despite the myth of tailgating, drunkenness, obscene behavior, violence and harassment are not acceptable. The ultimate purpose is to display school pride and spirit in a permissible manner.



PAIGE WILSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Students dance at the tailgate on Memory Mall.



The mission of the **Office of Student Involvement (OSI)** is to provide quality programs, services, and leadership opportunities that enrich students' academic endeavors and enhance the campus environment. Students and staff collaborate to develop programs and services which encourage students' personal growth, to promote civic responsibility, to embrace differences, and to connect students to the campus and the community.















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UCF ATHLETES DRAFTED THIS SPRING

CFF STAFF

FOOTBALL

After an NFL Draft that saw zero UCF players get their names called, two former Knights lineman have signed rookie free agent deals to continue their football careers.

Defensive lineman Demetris Anderson, who missed his entire senior season due a torn ACL, signed with the Green Bay Packers, and Lance McDowdell signed with the New Orleans Saints.

Anderson played 26 games as a Knight, totaling 58 tackles and 4.5 sacks. In his redshirt junior season, he recorded 34 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

Prior to UCF, the Fort Pierce native spent one year at the University of Western Michigan before transferring to UCF in 2012.

Unlike Anderson, McDowdell played in the 2015 winless season for the Knights, recording 34 tackles.

McDowdell transferred from Nassau Community College to UCF in 2014; that year, he played in nine games and recorded three tackles that season.

Both McDowdell and Anderson had much to prove at UCF's Pro Day on March 23.

McDowdell measured at 6-foot-3 and 300 pounds. He benched 225 pounds 28 times, ran a 5.18 40-yard dash, a 4.74 20-yard shuttle and had a broad jump of 8-foot-7, according to nfldraftscout.com, while Anderson measured at 6-foot-2 and 312 pounds. He recorded 16 reps of 225 pounds, ran a 5.24 40-yard dash, a 4.78 20-yard shuttle and his broad jump was 8-foot-1.

Both defensive lineman will compete to make the final 53-man roster this upcoming NFL season.

MEN'S SOCCER

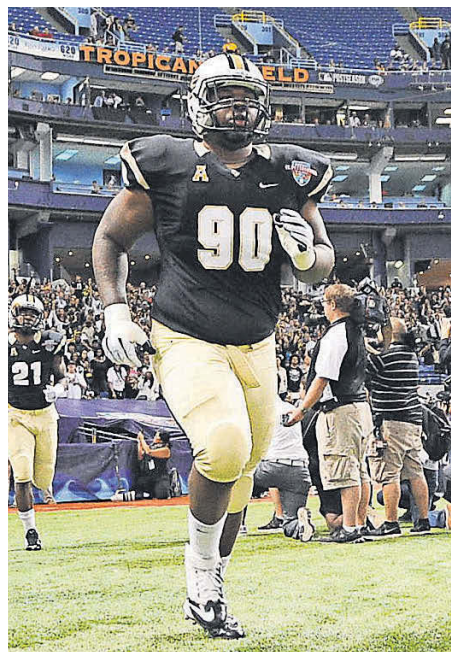
Former UCF soccer standout Hadji Barry was drafted by the Orlando City Lions with the 13th overall pick in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft on Thursday, Jan. 14. The Lions traded back into the first round to take the local star-forward after already taking midfielder Richie Laryea with the seventh overall pick.

Orlando City gave up targeted allegation money and its second-round pick draft pick to the D.C. United club for Barry.

Barry scored a team-high 11 goals for



COURTESY UCF ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS
Demetris Anderson played in the Bitcoin Bowl against North Carolina State on Dec. 12, 2014.



COURTESY UCF ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS
Lance McDowdell played in the Bitcoin Bowl against North Carolina State on Dec. 12, 2014.



CRAIG RUBADOUX/FLORIDA TODAY
Hadji Barry battles for the ball with Eastern Florida's Wilfred Williams during preseason.



NICK LEYVA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
As a freshman, Shelby Turnier played in 30 games, with 22 starts and 14 wins.

the Knights this past season as he was selected to the first-team all-American Athletic Conference. The Guinea native had the fastest 30-meter dash time at the combine and will look to add to the already attacking nature of the Lions for-

wards led by the 2015 AT&T Rookie of the Year Cyle Larin. Larin was tied for fifth in the MLS in goals scored with 17 while Orlando City ranked in the top-10 in the MLS in goals scored totaling 46 on the year.

Barry became the first player from UCF to sign with Orlando City's MLS side.

Softball

Selected as the No. 11 overall pick in this year's National Pro Fastpitch Draft by the Chicago Bandits, Shelby Turnier is the highest draft pick in UCF softball history.

Turnier has had an incredible career with the Knights, receiving honors such as NFCA Division I All-American First Team, ESPN National Player of the Week, NFCA National Pitcher of the Week, 2014 All-American Athletic Conference First Team, 2013 NFCA Division I Scholar Athlete and Conference USA All-Freshman Team.

She ranks second in UCF softball history in career wins with 72 and needs five more wins to break the program record of 78, which was set by Mackenzie Audas in 2015. She also sits third on the list for career shutouts with 21.

Only two other UCF softball players have been drafted into the NPF: Kahley Novak, drafted by the Dallas Charge in 2015 and Stephanie Best, who was drafted by the New England Riptide in 2005. Two other players, Allison Kime (2008) and Breanne Javier (2009), joined the league as free agents.

RELIVE HIGH SCHOOL GLORY DAYS WITH IM SPORTS

MATTHEW SAUNDERS

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

If you left high school with a passion for playing sports, UCF intramurals are the place to unleash those competitive tendencies or just have some fun with friends.

There are more than 60 IM sports to choose from and more being added almost every semester. Twenty-six have registrations that take place during the summer semester in both team and individual sports. Most of the sports everyone is familiar with will take place during summer B. In order to compete in the summer sports, you must be taking a class during the summer session. If you do not start classes until the fall, don't worry: Many fall sports are the same as summer, with some variation. IM sports are a great way to make friends and harbor friendships. Also, winning a T-shirt that says champion is something that is pretty cool, too.

Being a two-time shirt winner myself, I can say that I have made many friends during competition and have played with both friends and strangers who later became my friends through the friendly yet competitive competition.

If you don't have enough people to form a team but you still wish to compete, you can join teams as a free agent. More details about becoming a free agent can be found on the UCF IM Sports website. Most people do not realize that their tuition pays for the gym and intramurals. If you are paying for it, you might as well take advantage of it. Games take place during various times of the week and usually do not interfere with classes.

Playing IM sports does more than just allow one to be competitive. Playing sports and exercising in general is a great way to de-stress and release endorphins that allow you to stay focused in school and keep a positive healthy lifestyle. There are even IM sports that do

not seem like sports at all. A competition called sports trivia is something that is offered in the summer and is more or less a variation on your local watering hole's trivia night.

One of my personal favorites is the golf scramble tournament that happens in the summer. Another is floor hockey, which takes place in the spring.

The intramural staff gets together with the top ideas to form an all-day event of co-ed activities called "Rec-Fest," which is an all-day event that allows students to play in more than one IM event and test out new sports. This is an event where you can see the future of intramurals and see sports that might become available to sign up for and play in future semesters.

No matter what your game or interest is, I can assure you that UCF has the right sport for you.

With so many sports to choose from, you might just have to go through the website and see them all for yourself.



BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Lots of intramural sports, including dodgeball, are available to students.

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ENTERTAINMENT

YOU HAVE TO DO THIS

PAIGE WILSON
Central Florida Future

One of the best parts about UCF is that there's always something going on. Here are some of the must-do events this campus offers for students, and they're all free:

UNIVERSAL KNIGHTS

Once each spring, UCF's Student Government Association buys out Islands of Adventure, and the park becomes filled with only Knights. UCF chants spontaneously start throughout the night as students explore the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, journey with dinosaurs in Jurassic Park, fight crime with superheroes on Marvel Island and more.

FOOTBALL GAMES

Whether you know the rules of football or not, being a part of the Knightmare student section at Bright House Networks Stadium is an important part of your college career. Before each home game, Knights can join in the tailgating festivities on Memory Mall, where the grassy area turns into a sea of black and gold. When touchdowns are scored at the game, Knights have a tradition of throwing a friend up in the air to match the number of points on the board. Take it from me, this can be a terrifying, yet amazing experience that you don't want to miss out on.

RENT-A-PUP

Pet Rescue By Judy is a nonprofit that aids in caring for abused pets. Once a month, dogs are brought to campus for Rent-a-Pup, which gives students the opportunity to "rent" dogs for a 15-minute walk around the Burnett Honors College grass area. Students only need their UCF student ID to play with the pups.

LIGHT UP UCF

Who says winter doesn't come to Florida? Light Up UCF is an annual event that transforms the front of the CFE Arena into a winter wonderland complete with an ice skating rink, horse-drawn car-



BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

A campus fireworks show marks the end of Homecoming festivities each fall.



PAIGE WILSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Students enjoy time with a Rent-a-Pup puppy courtesy of Pet Rescue by Judy.

riages, Ferris wheel and other carnival-type rides. While this event runs for multiple months, two nights are designated to be free for UCF students.

HOMECOMING WEEK

During Homecoming Week, students can enjoy events that range from guest comedians, concerts, fireworks on memory mall, a movie night and more. Comedy Knight: UCF has brought comedians such as Chris D'Elia and Ben Bailey to the CFE Arena during Homecoming Week for a night of laughing with friends. Concert Knight: B.O.B and Ico-



RACHEL STUART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

A cheerleader hands out a rubber Spirit Splash duck to excited students during Homecoming Spirit Splash on Oct. 23, 2015.

na Pop headlined the 2014 Homecoming Concert Knight. Students pack the CFE Arena to jump around to the beat. Spirit Splash: This event is quite possibly the most highly attended Homecoming event. It was awarded Best Campus Tradition in 2011 by the National Association for Campus Activities. Hundreds of Knights gather around the UCF Reflecting Pond for their one chance of the year to jump into the water, and if they're lucky, obtain the prized possession of a yellow rubber duck designed around the year's theme. Skit Knight: This is the

most competitive event of Homecoming Week. Student organizations show their school spirit and creativity as they sing, dance and act their way to victory. Visitors can watch the skits from the crowd, cheer on friends and even donate to Knight-Thon at the event by voting for their favorite skit.

ROCK CLIMBING AT THE RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

The climbing tower at the RWC adds to the gym's opportunities for Knights to get fit and have fun doing so. Standing at 41 feet, the tower includes more than 20 top-rope routes with a wide range of difficulty levels, giving all Knights a chance to test their skills.

KAYAKING AT LAKE CLAIRE

Want to explore nature, play volleyball, have a cookout or do water sports? Students are able to do all these things and more without ever leaving campus. Lake Claire has two sand volleyball courts, and balls can be checked out from the RWC equipment building. All that's needed is a valid UCF student ID for Knights to paddle board, canoe or kayak their way across the beautiful lake that's complete with a picture-perfect dock.

SWIMMING AT THE LEISURE POOL

Escape the Florida heat by taking a dip in the RWC Leisure Pool, which has 186,000 gallons of water. The pool scene also features hammocks, lounge chairs and waterside basketball hoop and volleyball net. Entry is free with a UCF student ID.

KNIGHT-THON

Knight-Thon is UCF's Dance Marathon and largest student-run philanthropy. It provides ongoing support for the Greater Orlando Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Thousands of Knights fundraise throughout the year and during the 20-hour dance marathon to reflect its motto of being FTK — for the kids.

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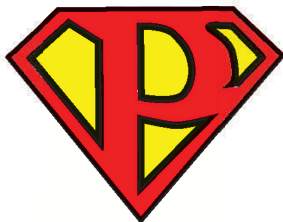


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Pegasus Palooza

Pegasus
Palooza
'16

KNIGHTS ASSEMBLE!



Nervous about starting school in the Fall? Worried about making new friends? We've got you covered!!

Pegasus Palooza is UCF's official Welcome Week designed to help students acclimate and connect to campus, learn about a variety of resources, have fun and make new friends! Pegasus Palooza is the perfect way to kick off the Fall term for all students, whether you are a freshman or senior, transfer or regional campus student.

Social events (think Concert Knight, inflatables, games and Knight Rave), mostly held in the evening, are designed to introduce you to campus life and provide you with fun things to do. Day time events are designed to educate you about campus resources and what you can do to be successful. This year's theme is Superheroes- **Pegasus Palooza: Knights Assemble!** Pegasus Palooza offers a week of exciting programs, free food and giveaways, and is the best way to start off your Fall term at UCF!

Convocation: The Knighting



Convocation: The Knighting is the official university welcome for new students. President Hitt and other distinguished speakers, the UCF Marching Knights, Knightro, and more will be kicking off your academic journey.

All new students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend; freshman students are required to attend. Students will receive a UCF memento and be knighted at the end of the event!

The Knighting is a UCF tradition not to be missed!

Date: August 21, 2016

Time: 4 PM

Location: CFE Arena

Important Websites
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DIET & EXERCISE

Avoiding the freshman 15

DANIELA MARIN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

There's one thing they don't tell you in high school: Your freshman year of college will actually bring you an unprecedented amount of spare time.

The average freshman takes four classes, which means you might have three classes on several days, but others you'll only have one — you'll most likely even have a day off.

The Freshman 15 is real. I've seen it manifest itself in ugly ways. But when I think back on my freshman year of college, I realize that I have never been in better shape in my life than those days.

I know what you're thinking — they totally chose the wrong girl to talk about fighting the Freshman 15.

But think about it: You have all the time in the world to develop a flexible workout schedule you can stick to, you're walking distance from one of the



COURTESY MAURA MCCLEAN

Engineering freshman Alfredo Gomez bites into his burger from Wackadoo's.

biggest wellness facilities in the area and, oh, the walking. Have you seen how big campus is?

Developing a healthy diet is essential at every point in your life, but your freshman year is particularly crucial because it will be a time of stress, change, new pressures and freedom.

With this new freedom, you'll realize, comes the liberty to fully regulate how often you're eating, when you're eating and what you're eating. Maybe you've experienced this for some time now at home, or maybe your parents are nutrition fanatics who didn't allow chips, soda or gluten in the house.

Either way, it's quite liberating to know that you can get both the Oreo's family pack and the cookie dough ice cream at the store and no one will know. Or that you can indulge in a Pub Sub every night because those things are good enough to live off of.

But don't let that sweet taste of freedom on your lips make you forget that it's all going straight to your hips.

There are so many different freshmen experiences when it comes to meals. Maybe you live off campus and have your own kitchen, or maybe you live in Libra and have a sink (like I did). If you're on campus and are signed up for one of the meal plans, stay clear of the endless cookie and pizza bars. Pivot for the salad bar and grab as much fruit as you can in those green Tupperware containers to snack on when you go to class.

If you do have access to a kitchen, don't fall for the notion that you have to settle for unhealthy and processed food just because you're on a budget. Instead, check out Fancy Fruit and Produce on Colonial Drive. It's just 15 minutes from campus and they offer the most affordable fruit and produce deals.

Or, try to meal prep. Set one day aside to fully plan out your meals and leave them ready to go in your fridge.

So now you just have to find an exer-

cise regimen that works for you. The good news is that there are so many options around campus.

The Recreation and Wellness Center is an obvious choice. You have a cardio room, a weight room, an indoor track and even a lap pool. For a less-crowded environment, check out the gym at Knights Plaza. This is where the yoga classes are held, which are worth checking out if you're looking for a new hobby that'll get you in shape and doesn't require sweating on an elliptical for an hour.

If you're having trouble sticking to a routine, find a work-out buddy who lives near you or shares a similar class schedule.

Or if you prefer working out outside, our campus makes for a great jogging track, and the Arboretum offers secluded nature trails if you're looking for more Zen in your work out. Lake Claire Recreation Center offers free paddle board and kayak rentals with your college ID, or you can also sign up for the Challenge Course or Rock Climbing Wall through the Outdoor Adventure Club.

So the truth is, you really don't have any excuse. Finding an hour a day to work in some sort of exercise, whether it be in the lap pool, the elliptical, a nature trail or the lake will be easier than it ever was in high school.

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GREEK LIFE 101

ISABELLE D'ANTONIO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When you first step foot on the UCF campus and see students wearing shirts covered with Greek letters, you may be a bit confused. Greek life can be overwhelming, but I'm here to break down the basics for you.

There are 47 Greek organizations on campus; altogether, more than 3,000 students are involved in Greek life. There are four Greek councils at UCF: the Diversified Greek Council, which is made up of 10 culturally diverse Greek lettered organizations; the Interfraternity Council, which comprises 18 all-male fraternities; the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which consists of nine historically black fraternities and sororities; and the Panhellenic Council, which is made up of 12 all-female sororities.

There are many misconceptions about Greek life, such as that it's just for partying and drinking, or that you buy your friends. Greek life is so much more than that: It's about service, family, aca-

demics and networking. Members of sororities and fraternities generally have a higher GPA than nonmembers, according to UCF's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. It does cost money, but so does any other club on campus. You're not paying for your friends: You're paying for fun activities, professional workshops and a chance to be a part of an amazing organization that gives you a home away from home. College can be scary and lonely, especially if you move far away from home. Being in a sorority or fraternity gives you a new family that you can feel totally comfortable with.

I went through recruitment in fall 2015, and it was one of the most intense and emotional weeks of my life. Recruitment is the week before classes start in the fall, and it involves more than 1,000 women visiting every Panhellenic chapter on campus to find the best fit for them. It is incredibly stressful, tiring and emotionally draining. Though the week was certainly not one of the highlights of my college life, running home to my chapter at the end of the week was



PAIGE WILSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta wait for their new recruits to run to them on Aug. 22, 2015.

totally worth it.

On the first two days, potential new members (PNMs) visit all 12 chapters for brief intros. On the third day, PNMs visit fewer chapters and get to learn about their philanthropies. On the fourth day, PNMs visit even fewer chapters and watch a video on the sisterhoods. The fifth day is called preference night,

when PNMs make their final decisions of which chapter they would like to join. The final day is what PNMs worked all week for — bid day! This is where PNMs run home to their new chapters and usually spend the day doing a fun activity and getting to know each other. An important thing to note is that the recruitment process is a mutual selection process: PNMs and the sisters of the chapters both decide if a PNM will return to a chapter.

Keep an open mind: Don't go in to a chapter with preconceptions about them.

Be yourself: You don't want to be a fake version of yourself, then join a chapter and realize you don't click with them.

Be prepared: Do your research, plan your outfits ahead of time and take the time to think about what you want in a sorority. You're not joining a chapter because they have nice decorations or their outfits are cute; you're joining them because you can genuinely see yourself being a part of their sisterhood.

Listen to your Rho Gamma: PNMs are broken up into smaller groups with a leader called a Rho Gamma, a sorority woman there to guide them through the process.

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NOTABLE CELEBRITIES, LEADERS WHO STARTED OUT AS KNIGHTS

In less than a month, hundreds of students will walk across a stage, take their diploma and become UCF alumni. While many will go on to lead perfectly respectable, normal lives, many alumni and former students have achieved fame on the big screen, in the board room and in the recording studio.

The *Central Florida Future* has compiled a list of 10 of some of the most famous UCF alumni and former students, from models to comedians to CEOs.

DANIEL TOSH

Daniel Tosh is an American comedian, television host, actor, writer and executive producer. He hosts the Comedy Central TV show, *Tosh.0*. Tosh was born in Boppard, Rhineland-Palatinate, West Germany, but grew up in Titusville. According to starpulse.com, he graduated from UCF in December 1996 with a degree in marketing. One of his first jobs following graduation was a telemarketer. Tosh claims living in Florida has influenced his decision to work in comedy.

CHERYL RUTH HINES

Cheryl Ruth Hines is an American actress, comedian, producer and director. She is best known for her role as Cheryl on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, which resulted in two Emmy nominations. Hines is also well known for her role opposite Robin Williams in the 2006 film *RV* and as Dallas Royce on the ABC sitcom *Suburgatory*. According to her IMDB profile, she attended West Virginia University, Florida State University and graduated from UCF.

DANIEL MYRICK AND EDUARD SANCHEZ

Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sanchez are film directors known for their work on *The Blair Witch Project*. The success of the film brought a sequel, *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*. The pair graduated from UCF's film program.

MÓNICA SPEAR MOOTZ

Mónica Spear Mootz was born Oct. 1, 1984. She won Miss Venezuela in 2004, and represented Venezuela at Miss Universe 2005, where she finished 4th run-



VIA DIPLO TWITTER

Diplo, a Grammy-nominated DJ, went to UCF before transferring to Temple University.

ner up. According to her IMDB profile, Spear Mootz graduated from UCF with a bachelor's degree in theatre. On Jan. 6, 2014, Spear Mootz and her ex-husband were killed during an attempted robbery in her native Venezuela.

JIM ATCHISON

Jim Atchison is an American business executive. He was the president and chief executive officer of SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, according to the UCF Board of Trustees website. Atchison graduated from USF with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and from UCF with a master's in business administration. He currently serves as a member of the UCF Board of Trustees.

JULIA ANN PIERSON

Julia Ann Pierson was the 23rd director of the United States Secret Service. Pierson graduated from UCF in 1981 with a degree in criminal justice, the *Orlando Sentinel* reports. She became director of the Secret Service in March 2013. But

due to a series of security errors involving the agency, she resigned in 2014.

PLIES

Plies, born Algenod Lanier Washington, is an American rapper worth nearly \$14 million, according to bornrich.com. Before his music career, Plies went to Miami University and played football from 1995 to 1997. After that, he went to UCF and eventually dropped out, starting Big Gates Records with his stepbrother thereafter. One of his notable singles is "Shawty."

THOMAS PENTZ "DIPLO"

Thomas Pentz, better known by his stage name Diplo, is a Grammy-nominated American DJ, music producer, rapper and songwriter. He attended UCF as a film major in 1997. According to *Paste Magazine*, Pentz left UCF to continue his studies at Temple University, where he first gained attention as a DJ. Diplo founded and manages his own record

company, Mad Decent. Pentz previously worked as a schoolteacher in Philadelphia. He has worked on many other projects throughout his career, including Major Lazer and Jack Ü.

ALLEN WEISS

Allen Weiss is the president of Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. He began his career at Disney, according to UCFKnights.com, in 1972 as a cast member and rose the ranks to previously serve as the executive vice president, and then president, of the Walt Disney World Resort. He holds a bachelor's degree from UCF and an MBA from Rollins College.

ERICKA DUNLAP

Ericka Dunlap, a UCF graduate with a degree in advertising-public relations, took the Miss America crown in 2004. Previously, she was crowned as the first African American Miss Florida. Since her crowning, she has appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Hollywood Squares* and the *O'Reilly Factor*.

Keeping your faith in college

NADA HASSANEIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Staying faithful doesn't mean living under a rock. College is a time to get out of your bubble, but to do that you don't need to sacrifice your values and morals. Explore your own faith and the faiths of others — learn more about what you don't know.

College is a place of learning — not just learning about your class subject material, but about yourself and your identity, however fluid or fixed it may seem. You can be your own person, have your own unique quirks and still identify as a follower of a faith. Faith communi-



DANIELA MARIN / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Students pray in the UCF Prayer and Reflection room on March 18, two days after its initial opening.

ties are diverse. Have your own interests, be well-rounded and pursue what you love — religion shouldn't feel like a binding, burdening code of ethics that leaves you constantly guilt-ridden. Faith isn't just an empty set of rituals and do's and don'ts. It's a soulful approach to life and to your psyche — if you invite it to be.

Faith is not meant to be distastefully shoved down your throat or others' — you'll find that tends to happen a lot on college campuses. That being said, your faith will be challenged, internally and

from external sources, and that's a good thing. Blindly following or believing anything can't be a sincere way of belief or life. Be intelligent: Study and research faiths yourself, and pay attention to how they make you feel. You might be surprised at the gems of wisdom you'll find or the out-of-context claims you'll reconcile.

It should be a means of guiding you to be a better person — not stubborn, self-righteous and closed-minded, but rather, compassionate, deliberate and full of love. It should embellish your character,

not harden it.

Find your faith support circle, but don't get stuck in just that niche. Remember to venture out and learn something new. Find what resonates with you. For me, the first emphatic, Quranic revelation — simple the word “read” — strikes a chord with my own thoughts: It instills a sense of constant wonder within me, an inquisitive lens, and it encourages me to learn and to try to be a better version of myself.

Many might accuse religion as the root that fuels society's division and violence. But looking deeper, you might find that it's often the imperfect nature of humans themselves that add to this divisiveness, not the religion itself. Use your own judgment, and break your own stigmatic barriers.

So, what does faith mean to you? Is it a doctrine you grew up in? A traditional way of life that you cherish? Something new you discovered in your early teen years? The gold in the dust that you cling on to as your haven during a turbulent time in your life? Or maybe it's more like metallic rust, something that's remained untouched, maybe from a damaging experience?

Whatever it has meant for you, explore that more, and maybe even (re)kindle a connection. What better a time?



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Top 5 eateries just miles from campus

VERONICA M BREZINA
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

New to UCF and want to grab something other than Ramen and cheap beer? As a foodie myself, and a previous food blogger for the *Central Florida Future*, I'm going to open your taste buds to some of the most delicious, award-winning and savory restaurants and cafes to chow down at within a 10-mile radius from campus.

LAZY MOON

You may have been accepted into UCF and your major may not even be listed as pending anymore, but you are still missing the next step to becoming a full-fledged knight: A visit to Lazy Moon. The well-known pizza joint is located on University Boulevard. Be aware that University Boulevard boasts many chain restaurants; however, Lazy Moon is a local pizzeria whoerethe legendarily large slices are as big as your face. Customers can even personalize their pizzas with an assortment of ingredients. My personal favorite Lazy Fave slice is Jason's Mom (who definitely has it going on). It's drenched with a generous layer of baked ranch and Jason's mom's sauce, topped with chicken, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions and tomatoes. And what could be a more perfect pairing to go with these gigantic slices than a craft-brewed beer, of which Lazy Moon boasts a diverse collection.

4 RIVERS SMOKEHOUSE

When you're feeling a bit country, you can find nostalgic Southern fixings at 4 Rivers. The Texas-style smokehouse is also located on University Boulevard. Everything you can find that's whipped up in a Southern mother's kitchen is served here, from smoked beef brisket to pulled barbecue pork and bread pudding swirled with cinnamon. This is the finest local barbecue spot locals head to, especially if you can't grill out where you live.

MARK'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE

This hidden gem is tucked away on University Boulevard and features the most authentic Jamaican food you can get. It's totally worth the drive for a Jamaican beef patty and jerk chicken. The spices send you on a trip to the islands even though you may be land-locked here in Central Florida.



Along with giant pizza slices and craft beer, Lazy Moon also boasts a bocce ball court.

BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

BOSTON COFFEE HOUSE

Sip some heavenly brewed coffee inside a Colonial-style coffee house located just minutes from UCF in the Waterford Lakes Plaza. The aroma of sweet flavors fills the brick-paved Boston Coffee House. You can sit inside, where there are a couple leather chairs and tables, or outside on a cute little patio. I usually venture here to use their free internet and drink their Yankee Doodle on ice, which has a shot of espresso and steamed milk and is infused with caramel and hazelnut.

SWEETS! BY GOOD GOLLY MISS HOLLY

Have a sweet tooth? Let Miss Holly bake you an award-winning cupcake at her store in Waterford Lakes Plaza. Owner Hollis Wilder has been crowned the cupcake champion in the Food Network's competitive baking show *Cupcake Wars* twice. She has more than 30 flavors of cupcakes to choose from. The choices may seem overwhelming, so you can wait till Mondays when you can buy here mini cupcakes for just \$1 each.



VERONICA BREZINA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

UCF's Cupcakes for a Cure will host a bake sale Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in front of the library.



DANIELLE HENDRIX / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Contributing writer Danielle Hendrix poses in front of the Italy's Amalfi Coast in April 2015.

Studying abroad the experience of a lifetime

DANIELLE HENDRIX
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Sometimes the best things in life are the ones you never dreamed you would be able to do. For me, that was flying nine hours trans-Atlantic to live for five months in a country I loved but had never been to. Let me tell you this: It was the best five months of my college career.

Having had an anxiety disorder since I was 7, it was a big enough move for me to come from the Gulf Coast to Orlando for college, let alone move across an ocean for half a year. But I've always loved England, and when the opportunity presented itself, I couldn't resist.

Through UCF's Study Abroad department, I found the perfect communications and media program at Bournemouth University in Bournemouth, England. Two of my closest friends applied to it with me, and we were all accepted. We were placed in a three-bedroom, university-owned flat together and planned out our big move for nearly a year. In January 2015, I packed two large suitcases, exchanged some dollars for pounds at the airport and landed, nearly 12 hours later, at London Heathrow airport.

Studying abroad was something that really added to my education at UCF. I admit, I did a good amount of traveling compared with my time studying, but the real education was the life experience.

I found one of my favorite quotes during my time in England: "And then I realized adventures are the best way to learn." It reminds me of all the times I got lost in London and eventually learned to read the tube map and get on the right

trains, the time I had to use Google Translate when in Rome to communicate with staff at a local pizzeria, and the time I went to a club in Bournemouth and quickly found out that I absolutely hate clubbing.

I climbed Mount Vesuvius in below-freezing weather with high winds and snow flurries whipping my face. I endured a seven-hour coach journey to get from Bournemouth to Cardiff, Wales, just to see One Direction in concert (don't judge). I walked through Anne Frank's home in Amsterdam with hundreds of people, all silent out of complete awe and reverence. In Paris, I sat on the steps of the Palais de Chaillot with three friends and a delicious Nutella crepe, and we watched as the Eiffel Tower was illuminated with thousands of sparkling lights. Perhaps most important, I proved to myself that I could conquer my anxiety and have the absolute time of my life.

Studying abroad is not a cheap thing to do, but the experience is absolutely priceless. I was able to use my financial aid, which put a good dent in the program and academic expenses. Even if you have to take out a small student loan or two like I did, I actually encourage you to do so — every penny will be worth it. There may never be another time in your life when you don't have anything tying you down, and the loan can — and will — be repaid.

You will experience a degree of culture shock and possibly a bit of homesickness. It's an adjustment, but it's also going to enhance your education and worldview. As St. Augustine said, "The world is a book, and those who don't travel only read one page." Go ahead, spread your wings and read a few chapters.

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Student Union getting restaurant makeover



BERNARD WILCHUSKY, CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

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CAROLINE GLENN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Under a recently approved 10-year agreement with Aramark, a slew of new eateries are slated to open in UCF's Student Union, located in the center of campus.

The food court, which currently houses Nathan's Famous and Asian Chao, among others, will undergo renovations, adding Steak 'n Shake, Which Wich and Panda Express, according to a UCF release. The new additions, as well as the remaining Qdoba and Huey Magoo's, will open in 2017 or 2018, doubling the Union's seating capacity.

Additionally, Cafe Bustelo will open this summer, and Chili's will open later this year, replacing Wackadoo's. Current Union tenants will continue serving students through 2017 or 2018 when their leases end, the release states.

Over by the Leisure Pool, located next to the Recreation and Wellness Center, Pollo Tropical and a second Cafe Bustelo will open up shop. Two more locally owned eateries will be added at a later date.

"Student feedback has been a critical

part of this decision-making process, as more than 7,400 students completed a recent survey," said Rick Falco, director of the Student Union, in a press release. "We look forward to seeing these exciting new options for students, faculty and staff as part of our renovated and expanded food court."

The renovations come after a November decision to consolidate UCF food services under Aramark, which is funding the expansion, previously estimated at \$14 million. The agreement, which passed in November, sparked much controversy among students and Union tenants, who came out to a heated Board of Trustees meeting, some wielding signs that read "Don't let Wackadoo's go dark! Say NO! to Aramark," "SLAP down the monopoly" and "If Aramark has their way the SU will decay."

But UCF's chief financial officer said the deal is ultimately for the students.

"I think this is a really good program, good agreement, for the students as a whole," said William Merck, UCF's vice president for administration and chief financial officer, at the trustees meeting. "The whole purpose of this whole particular proposal is for students."

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

Academic dates

REGISTRATION WINDOW

March 14 to August 21

CLASSES BEGIN

August 22

ADD DEADLINE

August 25

DROP DEADLINE

August 26

TUITION PAYMENT DEADLINE

Sept. 2

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

Oct. 31

CLASSES END

Dec. 3

STUDY DAY

Dec. 5

FINAL EXAMS

Dec. 6 to Dec. 12



DEANNA FERRANTE / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

If you get lost en route to your first class, there are maps and kind upperclassmen to help you find your way.

An infographic on a yellow background featuring various career services offerings in white speech bubble shapes. The services listed include: Job Search Skills, Major Exploration, Career Counseling, Alumni Mentoring, Job Fairs, Resume Critiques, Practice Interviews, Workshops, Grad School Planning, Job Database, On-Campus Recruitment, Employer Info Sessions, Alumni Mentoring Program, Gain Experience, and Job Search Skills.

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Rub elbows with more than 170 student organizations and find out how to get involved on campus.

IT'S GREEK TO ME

Your introduction to Greek life at UCF.

TASTE OF UCF

An annual event displaying cuisine from various cultures represented at UCF.

KNIGHT RAVE

Do you like to dance? Do you like EDM, dubstep, house or trance music? Come ride the drop with your peers.

HOMECOMING WEEK

Dates to be announced; occurs mid-October

COMEDY KNIGHT

Campus Activities Board kicks off Homecoming Week with a free show headlined by a nationally renowned comedian.

CONCERT KNIGHT

The musical companion to Comedy Knight. Headline performer to be announced.

SKIT KNIGHT

Students and Greek organizations compete to see who can demonstrate the most spirit-filled skit.



BERNARD WILCHUSKY / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Spirit Splash took place Oct. 23 at the Reflecting Pond.



BERNARD WILCHUSKY, CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Following Greek pairings, fraternities and sororities band together at Homecoming events such as Skit Night. Last year, Pi Beta Phi, Delta Upsilon and Delta Sigma Phi performed together.

COIN WARS

Compete to collect the most small-change donations for charity.

MOVIE KNIGHT

CAB hosts a free movie.

SPIRIT SPLASH

One of UCF's biggest traditions. Join hundreds of students as they run into the Reflecting Pond for a dance party, featuring live performances by UCF's Spirit Squad, Knights Marching Band and Knightro.

DIVERSITY WEEK

Oct. 17 to Oct. 21

A week of events designed to celebrate the diversity present at UCF. Learn about new cultures and expand your horizons.

FAMILY WEEKEND

Sept. 16 to Sept. 18

Bring the parents to campus for a weekend of indulgence and fun.

MEGHAN TRAINOR

Sept. 18, 7 p.m. at CFE Arena

Come see singer-songwriter Meghan Trainor belt out one of her famous pop hits at UCF.

CHRIS YOUNG

Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. at CFE Arena

Country musician Chris Young brings his soulful ballads to UCF.

LIGHT UP UCF

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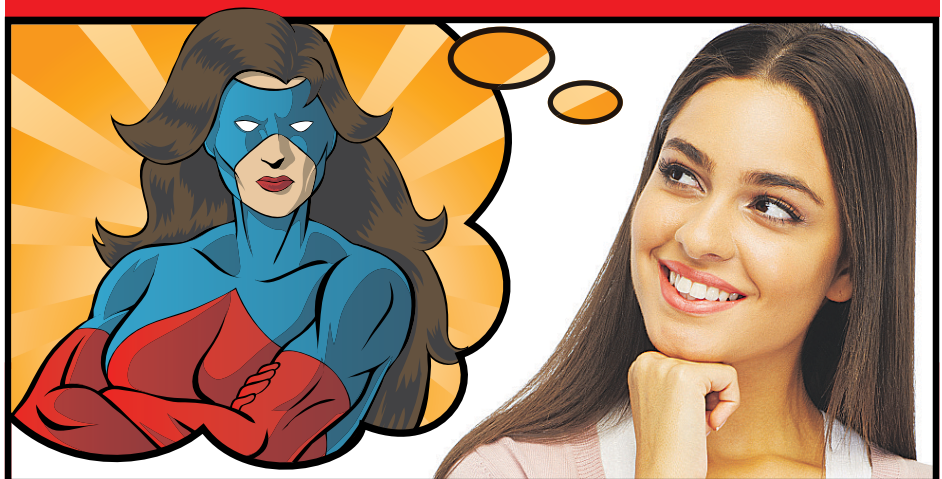
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