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Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

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Declawed

The injured and Case Keenum-less Cougars look for revenge — SEE SPORTS, A6



Up in the air

Objects in Motion aims to spread their love of juggling — SEE VARIETY, A8



Fall back



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Get UCF news sent to your cell phone. Just text the keyword **UCFNEWS** to 44636.

AROUND CAMPUS, A2

DANISH CHESS **GRAND MASTER VISITS UCF**

Lars Bo Hansen, a Danish chess grand master, will be visiting UCF to play in a simultaneous exhibition hosted by the UCF chess club. Food and drinks will be provided to attendees.

LOCAL & STATE, A2

US DEBT TOP ISSUE FOR FLA.'S NEW **SENATOR RUBIO**

The national debt is Senatorelect Marco Rubio's top concern, saying America's enemies dream of the country falling into a debt crisis as much as they do another Sept. 11-like terrorist attack.

WEATHER OUTLOOK **WORSENS FOR SPACE** SHUTTLE LAUNCH

NASA has yet to decide whether space shuttle Discovery is safe to lift off on its final mission Thursday. Discovery will head to the International Space Station for its last trip into orbit.

TODAY'S INDEX WEATHER Around Campus 2 Local & State Sports Opinion THUNDER Variety SHOWERS Classifieds 11 11 78° 57° HIGH LOW

Enrollment keeps growing

UCF 2nd in United States

exponentially in the past few years, became the second-largest university in the nation Wednesday, according to a report released by UCF News & Information.

Ohio State, which was previously in second place, was surpassed by UCF with a preliminary

enrollment report of 56,235 students.

Arizona State Universi-UCF, which has grown ty still holds the top spot at more than 70,000 stu-

> According to the report released by UCF News & Info, new UCF students came in with an average high school GPA of 3.8 and an average SAT of 1237.

> Both numbers are the highest that UCF has ever

THE 10 LARGEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY Offers undergraduate students over 250 majors.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA Enrollment increased over 60 percent in the new millennium

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Has a strong following in part because its athletics teams.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Located in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN contains 16 colleges and schools and two academic units. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Comprised of a diverse student body.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The main campus spans 5,200 acres. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Students hail from 50 states and 130 countries. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The campus size is 1,941 acres.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY Has 24 campuses throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

New man in charge



Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Scott, left, and his running mate, Rep. Jennifer Carroll, R-Jacksonville, wave to supporters in the early morning hours Wednesday in Fort Lauderdale. Scott's victory was part of a strong Republican showing in the midterm election.

around



Republicans win across the board on Tuesday

KATIE KUSTURA

Election results were rolling in by 8 p.m. Tuesday, but Florida residents wouldn't know the name of their new governor until almost 15 hours later.

In the race for governor, UCF students and other Central Florida residents watched the number of statewide votes for Republican Rick Scott and Democrat Alex Sink fluctuate throughout the evening within about 2 percent.

Shortly after 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sink conceded with 47.65 percent of the vote and Scott with 48.94 percent.

"There were plenty of pundits, politicians and insiders who said this victory was impossible," said Scott, according to The Associated Press. "But the people of Florida knew exactly what they wanted. They sent a message loud and clear: they said, let's get to work."

"It feels pretty good," sophomore health and fitness major Robbie Flynn said of Scott's win. "Sometimes it feels like I don't have much of a say in anything, and I almost considered not voting. I feel like it was a little tough to even get out there yesterday to do it."

Another major win for the Republican party came out of the three-way race for senator between Republican Marco Rubio, Democrat Kendrick Meek and Gov. Charlie Crist, a Republican who ran as an inde-

PLEASE SEE RUBIO ON A3



over Alex Sink for the position of Governor with 2,588,415 votes.

Rick Scott was





MARCO

(2,613,877 votes)



Wins State Attorney General with 54.86 percent of the vote.

(2,849,209 votes)



ATWATER

Wins Chief Financial Officer with 57.39 percent

(2,931,138 votes)

Mold issues linger around Peg. Landing

Slow progress draws ire

RAVEN BRAJDIC

UCF suspended its contract with Pegasus Landing five months ago after two years of complaints.

But mold is still a problem for some of the residents, many of whom are UCF students. Though she has lived in Pegasus Landing

for two years, upon moving in to her new apartment, junior sociology major Christina Eisenberg was informed that it would take 30 days to fix the problem. Pegasus Landing told her she had until

Sept. 15 if she wanted to break her lease. It wasn't until two weeks after that date that

residents were told it wouldn't be finished until Nov. 17, she said. Eisenberg is just one of the students who

have been inconvenienced by Pegasus Landing's mold problem this year. Senior interpersonal/organizational com-

munications major and former resident Gideon Gravett lived in the complex for three years and had never seen anything like that

PLEASE SEE LANDING ON A5

All-Knighter block party to aid charity

AMANDA DASHER

Vampire fangs, superhero capes and social networking can help feed a country in need. The Pre-Professional Medical Society is host-

ing UCF's first All-Knighter Halloween-themed block party on Friday from 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Student Union patio to benefit Food For The Poor, a charity organization geared toward providing aid for poverty-stricken countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Food For The Poor All-Nighter events are held to raise money to build sustainable resources in these countries.

"The whole point of the event is to raise money to build sustainable food sources," said junior pre-med student Zophia Martinez, who is also president of the Pre-Professional Medical Society at UCF. "That's this organization's motto:

PLEASE SEE EVENT ON A4

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8% Student Service Discount

AROUND **CAMPUS**

News and notices for the UCF community

Grand master to play roughly thirty players at once

The event, which offers free admission, will give priority to chess club members who pay dues. Spectators are allowed, as long as they remain quiet.

The event will begin Sunday from 11:20 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and will be held in the Student Union, Key West Room 218 C&D.

Nutrition event helps students eat healty on a budget

Meghan Murphy Van-Camp, a UCF dietitian, will be talking to students about healthy eating on a student budget.

All students who attend the event will receive a free snack, as well as 500 LINK Loot points.

The event will take place Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Workshop aims to improve interpersonal communication

Constuctive Communication, a workshop designed to improve meaningful interactions with others, will be hosting an event. It will focus constructive destructive messages.

The event, open to all UCF students, will be free and will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

It will take place in the Nicholson School of Communication, Room 116.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Kristin Davis at krdavis@mail.ucf.edu.

LOCAL & STATE

Keep local with headlines you may have missed

Senator-elect Rubio says debt is a security threat

CORAL GABLESspeaking Rubio, reporters Wednesday after independent beating Charlie Crist and Democrat Kendrick Meek to win Florida's open Senate seat, said that greatest national security threat is the national debt.

Rubio said, "Our ene mies understand that if America's economy is not vibrant, we cannot afford to defend ourselves or our allies."

Rubio also said he hopes Republicans realize the Tuesday's elections are not about the nation favoring Republicans, but rather giving them a second chance to follow through on promises of being fiscally responsible.

Chances are high that weather will interfere with shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL -Wednesday's launch attempt was called off 24 hours in advance because of main engine controller

The computerized controller was slow in starting up, then had strange voltage readings.

Mission managers are meeting at the Florida launch site Wednesday afternoon to decide whether the problem poses any threat to liftoff. If repairs are needed, the delay could be significant.

Death probed of woman who fell from balcony

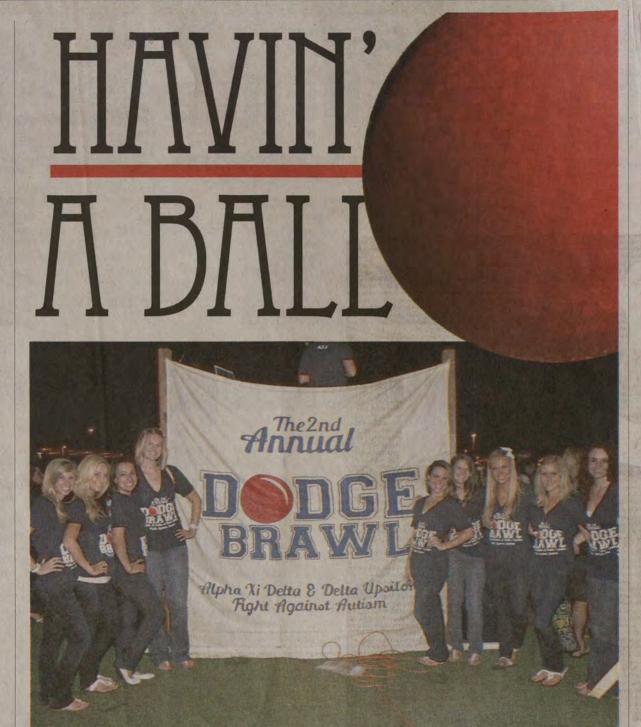
ST. PETERSBURG -Authorities are investigating the death of a Gulf coast area woman who fell from a sixth-floor balcony.

The woman fell early Wednesday.

Authorities say witnesses told them the woman and her boyfriend were fighting in their apartment sixth-floor when she fell over the rail-

Authorities say it appears she slipped from his grasp and fell.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL DONALDSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE Alpha Xi Delta worked with Delta Upsilon for the second annual Dodgebrawl tournament, in which they raised more than \$5,000 for their philanthropy.

the autism community so what

we're doing is trying to raise awareness for autism and the cause," Guiliano said.

Delta Upsilon teamed up with Threshold Center for

Autism last year and that is how

Dodgebrawl was conceptual-

ized. Last year the event raised more than \$3,000.

ed various prizes for Alpha Xi

Delta and Delta Upsilon to raffle

off during the tournament. Rounds of golf from Congo River, games of bowling from

Boardwalk Bowl and gift cards

from establishments like Califor-

nia Pizza Kitchen, TGI Fridays

and Greens & Grille were all up

Delta Upsilon raised more than

\$5,000 toward their philanthro-

Delta's philanthropy chair, was

thrilled with the success of

we did last year and that was our

goal," Darrigo said. "Hopefully

we can raise more money each

year we host the event and with

that raise more awareness for the

fight against autism."

This year Alpha Xi Delta and

Kaley Darrigo, Alpha Xi

"We raised more money than

for grabs.

Dodgebrawl.

Sponsors of the event donat-

Dodgebrawl tournament a success for second year

ABIGAIL DONALDSON

Dodgeball - so easy a caveman can do it? That was the case with the loincloth-clad Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity as they dodged, ducked, dipped and dived in Alpha Xi Delta's and Delta Upsilon's second annual Dodgebrawl tournament.

On Oct. 27, UCF fraternities and sororities gathered at Memory Mall to face-off in a fierce dodgeball competition for the organizers' philanthropies.

Twenty-seven teams of six players each entered the tournament. Organizations paid \$75 to form a team and were welcome to enter more than one team.

The tournament was broken into a bracket-style competition, one team eliminating another until a winner was declared. Teams dressed as superheroes, jack-o'-lanterns and a variety of other Halloween costumes all played two rounds per match on one of the four makeshift dodgeball courts while spectators enjoyed the musical stylings of Kid Judah, who DJ'd the event.

"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball!" said an onlooker in the crowd, quoting the 2004 film Dodgeball as a green foam ball whizzed by participant Janelle Pedisich.

Pedisich, a junior biology major, was participating as a part of the Kappa Delta sorority's team that came in second place in the tournament.

"I signed up to play because it seemed like a fun way to raise money for autism and a great way to represent my sorority," Pedisich said. "I didn't mind getting hit for a good cause."

After three long hours, the ultimate champions of Dodgebrawl were Alpha Tau Omega for the fraternity bracket and Alpha Epsilon Phi for the sorority bracket.

Members of Alpha Xi Delta and Delta Upsilon grilled barbecue on-site that individuals could purchase to earn points for their fraternity or sorority.

Next to the grilling tent was a long table of colorful pumpkin

Today

THUNDER

SHOWERS

High: 78°

Low: 57°

buckets with the name of each Greek organization. Students could make donations to earn additional points for their team.

The Kappa Alpha Theta sorority took home first place for accumulating the most points overall by purchasing Dodge-brawl T-shirts, barbecue tickets, member participation, donations and more.

The money benefitted Alpha Xi Delta's national philanthropy, Autism Speaks, and Delta Upsilon's local philanthropy, Threshold Center for Autism.

Autism Speaks is a nonprofit organization that was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Since then, Autism Speaks has grown into the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization and funds research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism.

Threshold Center Autism's mission is to both guide and provide family centered care for children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities here in the Orlando community.

Mike Guiliano, the vice president of philanthropy for Delta Upsilon, said that the main pur-



LOCAL WEATHER



TODAY IN DETAIL

Today: Showers and a few thunderstorms likely. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent. Tonight: Scattered thunderstorms in the evening, mainly cloudy late with a few showers.



Friday

FEW SHOWERS

High: 84° Low: 69°

Saturday High: 68° SUNNY

Low: 48°

Central

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LET US KNOW

The Future is working to compile information about organizations and events in the UCF community for our calendar on UCFNews.com and the Around Campus section of the paper.

If you know of any information you or your organization would like us to include, send an e-mail Events.CFF@gmail.com

UCF alumna starts own local practice

BLAIR JOHNSTON

UCF alumna and OB/GYN physician Dr. Ingrid Dunn completed her residency at Baystate Medical Center only a year ago, but she is already set to open her own practice in Decem-

Dunn originally studied to be a family practitioner, but she chose to be an OB/GYN after her daughter and son were born, because she wanted to make more of a contribution to women.

the experience of my children being born," said Dunn, whose practice -Women's Healthcare of Orlando — will be located in Avalon Park.

Originally from Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Dunn's dream of becoming a doc-

years old after being hospitalized for nine months for kidney problems and strep throat, which led to heart problems.

During the nine months she was in the hospital, Dunn loved watching the nurses and her mother, Albertha, who was also a nurse, complete duties and tend to patients.

Although she wasn't allowed to follow the nurses into patients' rooms, the nurses on the floor would let her stand next to the nurses' station and ask questions.

Though she developed a passion for medicine while in the hospital, as a result of the health problems, she missed the second grade.

But once out of the hospital she tested out of second grade and went straight into third grade.

It wouldn't be the first time Dunn proved she was highly intelligent.

Dr. Sarah Imtiaz, a geriatrician with a background in family medicine who is one of Dunn's most trusted colleagues, friend classmate, UCF remembers Dunn as an overachiever.

"Our Organic 1 class was a class of 200, and she was No. 1," Imtiaz said. "She received a standing ovation when she graduated from UCF."

Dunn, who attended Valencia Community College before transferring to UCF, received her bachelor's in micro and molecular biology and graduated summa cum laude in 2000. She then moved to Washington, D.C., where she received her medical degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

her residency in 2009 as an OB/GYN at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass.

Her sister remembers just how hard Dunn worked.

"Ingrid had to sacrifice lot," said Dunn's younger sister, Lana Dunn Neita, who would often call Dunn to make sure she woke up on time for all of her responsibilities. "She moved across the country away from our family to go to school. She went to school full time, worked full time as a certified nursing assistant

and had two kids." Something else Neita can attest to is the way Dunn treats her patients.

"Even though Ingrid is the doctor, she makes phone calls, helps with billing, knows about insurance, she's reachable, she does everything," Neita said. "When patients call her to thank her, she says, 'Of course, why wouldn't I?' "
Imtiaz agreed.

"Patients love Ingrid," Imtiaz said. "She picked the right field. She just has this way of approaching people that makes them feel special and cared for. She's a jewel. She's my role model."

"I want my patients to feel good about themselves when they leave my office, not scared or confused," Dunn said.

In making the decision to open a practice, Dunn chose to be close to UCF because she is impressed with the progress her alma mater has made.

"When I went to UCF, there were only about 30,000 students," Dunn said. "UCF has grown not only in volume, but also in the med school. There was no med school when I

Since she'll be so close to the school, Dunn wants to create an alliance with UCF to mentor students in the medical programs.

"I love to teach," Dunn said. "Students need to believe in themselves. They need to know that this field requires hard work and sacrifice, but they have the ability to decide how their lives turn out."

In addition to wanting to mentor students, Dunn also volunteers in the community.

Once a month, she volunteers at Shepherd's Hope, an organization that provides care to Central Florida's uninsured. She also hopes to work with Kiwanis, a global volunteer organization, to read to kindergarten-age children.

"Ingrid has a heart for the people that can't afford medical care," Neita said. "She doesn't care if you are rich, poor, black or white. She gives everyone caviar treat-

Dunn's life is a busy one, but she always makes time for family and prayer.

"Prayer is a big part of my life," she said. "It gives me the strength and guidance I need to keep going. My sister Lana is one of my biggest cheerleaders. We joke that she's the president of my fan club."

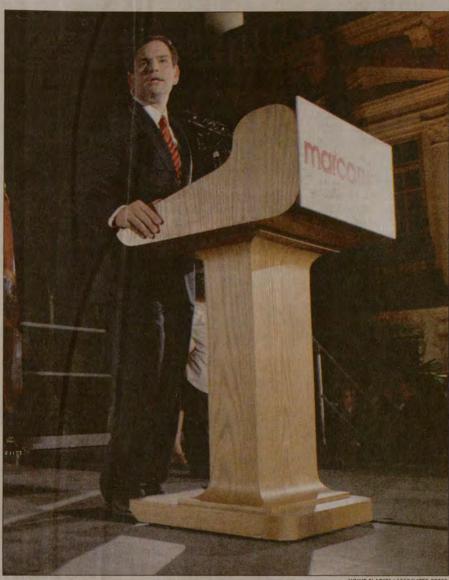
"We believe that God has a purpose for everyone," Neita said. "I believe God has chosen Ingrid to be a doctor. People need

Students interested in mentoring with Dunn can see her booth in front of the Student Union on Nov. 17 or go to whcorlando.com, where a link will soon be posted for interested students.

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LYNNE SLADKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen.-elect Marco Rubio, R-Fla., speaks after winning his Senate bid on Nov. 2 in Coral Gables.

Rubio corrals early win

FROM A1

Rubio's victory came early with 48.96 percent of the vote, followed by Crist with 29.72 percent and Meek with 20.12 percent.

Though Republicans won the majority of races, Rubio urged supporters at a rally not to get too comfortable just yet, according to the AP.

"We make a great mistake if we believe that tonight these results are somehow an embrace of the Republican party," Rubio said. "What they are is a second chance, a second chance for Republicans to be what they said they were going to be not so long ago."

The former speaker of

the Florida House of Representatives will take the spot of George LeMieux's, who was appointed to the seat last year following Mel Martinez's resigna-

Although Republicans took the majority of the wins, three of the 13 state representatives for various districts were won by Democrats.

micro and Senior molecular biology major Nadia Afkhami, a registered Democrat, voted primarily with her party, but was not surprised by the Republican's sweep.

"I think that Florida is mostly a Republican state and always has been, so I wasn't surprised," Afkha-

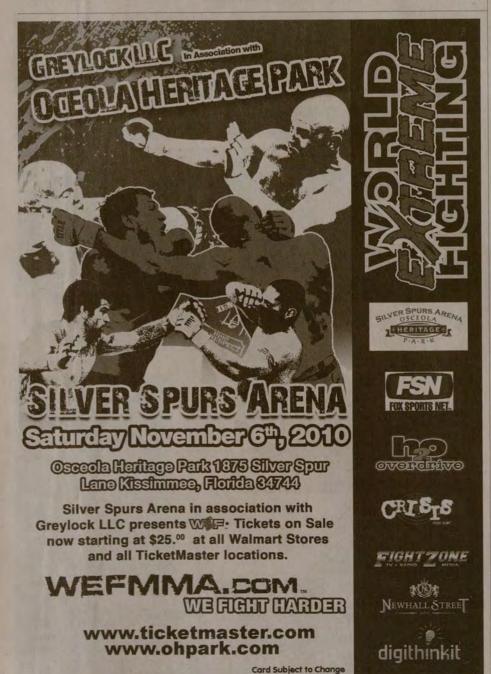
Under the assumption

that the Republicans would win, Afkhami almost chose not to vote.

"As far as my decision to vote, I was honestly not going to participate until some of my friends from Iran who are here studying for a master's reminded me that they can't and what a privilege it is to be able to make a difference and be heard," she said. "'Go vote for us,' they said."

Scott is the first Florida candidate to self-fund his entire campaign, in which he spent more than \$70 million.

In the race for Orange County mayor, former Orange County commissioner Teresa Jacobs beat commissioner Bill Segal with about 70 percent of





UCF alumni honored as Hometown Hero

T.J. WOOLFORD Contributing Writer

Before graduating UCF in 1990. Lt. Col. Carlos Halcomb once roamed the hallways and sidewalks of the school dressed in his Air Force blues, displaying pride and leadership.

Twenty years later, on Friday, Halcomb was honored as a one of the Hometown Heroes during Air Force Week at Cocoa

As the chief of the Space Shuttle Termination Patrick Air Force Base, Halcomb is in command of a program that will phase out the old space shuttle technology and help improve the U.S. Space program.

When the Merritt Island native graduated in 1990, the space shuttle program was just getting started and had executed 35 launches and was just beginning to send parts of the Hubble Space Telescope into space.

Before beginning his

was an Active Reservist in the Air Force, assigned to the 42nd Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB during his enlistment and was Active Reserve during his first two years at UCF.

For his junior and senior year, he was contracted into the Air Force ROTC program at Detachment

"UCF was always a school known for engineering, but it has really made its headway, you will find Air Force officers throughout the world from UCF," said Halcomb, who has been stationed at Air Force installations all over the world including Royal Air Force Alconberry, England, and Kadena Air Base, Japan.

UCF, Halcomb majored in liberal studies and said that it helped him out during his Air Force career because many good leaders have a broad education experience.

Halcomb chose to focus on aspects of business, history and engineering.

For students who are considering joining the Air Force, Halcomb had additional advice, aside from a broad education.

"First, be involved. Don't treat your classes as something to just attend," Halcomb said. "There are so many facets of being involved, from fundraisers to community involvements, and all of those are things that the ROTC Detachment at UCF stand up for."

Col. Michael Chandler, commander of Detachment 159 at UCF, said the Air Force is always looking for quality officers and that UCF's program can help students meet those stan-

"The Air Force ROTC program offers students a great leadership opportunity, as well as discipline and a feeling of accomplishment when they finish the program," Chandler

Psychology Diego Callirgos, who is in his third year of the Air Force ROTC program at UCF, said the program has motivated him to be suc-

"As a student, the Air Force ROTC program keeps you to a higher standard," Callirgos said. "It keeps you out of trouble, it

gives you the incentive to excel and it is a place where you can excel."

UCF's program motivated him so much that after graduation, Halcomb was commissioned into the Air Force as a Second Lieu-

Later in his career, he went on to become a special operations helicopter

While he's had some great Air Force experiences including four years flying Russian Mi-8 Hip helicopters and Huey gunships, Halcomb is quite proud of his alma mater.

"UCF, in the last 20 years since I have graduated, has really come up in its reputation and respect in terms of its academics," he

Halcomb acknowledges that his years as a Knight helped make him the Hometown Hero that he is



Lt. Col. Carlos Halcomb was honored as one of the Hometown Heroes at Air Force Week Oct. 27. Campus Crossings on Alafaya • Premier Student Living 12024 ROYAL WULFF LANE, ORLANDO, FL 32817 WWW.CAMPUSAPTS.COM/ALAFAYA RENT NOW STARTING @

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Event will have contests

Give a man a fish, you'll feed him for one day; teach a man to fish, you'll feed him for a lifetime."

Food for the Poor's All-Nighter events started last year, and were held in colleges throughout Florida.

The all-nighter concept was conceived specifically with college students in mind, said Wendy Bourgault, who works at Food For The Poor and helped establish the All-Nighters For The Poor last year.

"We have good initiatives for younger students from K through eight and also for high school, but we really wanted to engage college students," she said.

Bourgault said Food For The Poor wanted to create an event that would be web-based and involve social networking. This online aspect can

used in the All-Knighter's costume contest, which Martinez hopes is the night's biggest fundraiser. Costumed students can

enter the contest and then try to collect as many votes for best costume as they can, Martinez said. The votes will be in the

form of donations, and the person with the most donations at the end of the night will receive two free tickets to Sea World. Bourgault said she

hopes students advantage of websites like Facebook for the contest.

Contestants can upload pictures of their costumes so people who could not attend the event will still have the chance to make a donation and vote, she

"Students can get emails out to friends and family asking them to vote on their costumes. I can even, from a distance, vote on them," she said.

All the donations collected from the All-Knighter will go directly to Food For The Poor, and from there be used to build sustainable resources in

"I think the idea of sustainability really touched the college students," Bourgault said. "That's what this is all about, letting college students come together and learn about sustainable projects and raise money in fun ways." Last year, All-Nighter

events were held in colleges such as Miami Dade College and University of Florida, and students raised more than \$47,000, Bourgault said. The money was used to build four tilapia farm ponds in

Though the fundraising is the main reason for this block party, Martinez said, she also said she hopes that it will get some of the bigger organizations at UCF to take notice and decide to turn the All-Knighter into an annual event.

"Hopefully like Volunteer UCF or somebody with a lot more resources and that can fundraise even more money will help take it on because we really want this to be an ongoing thing at UCF," she

Junior Spanish major Natalia Sepulveda said she looked forward to going to the All-Knighter because of the volunteering aspect.

Sepulveda is a transfer student from Seminole State College and said she was involved in many activities there and now wants to attend as many events at UCF as she can.

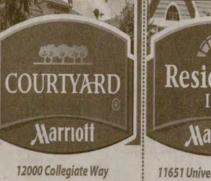
"Currently, I am looking for ways to volunteer and meet new people," Sepulveda said. "And one of my friends is attending, and I thought it would be cool to meet new people, have fun and help a great cause."

Bourgault said she admires those college students who are willing to spend the time to host and attend the All-Knighter at

"It's just so cool that college students are taking the time and spending resources to make a change," she said. "I think that the students at UCF have the ability to make a huge change in the lives of some of the most destitute people in our hemisphere through the All-Knighter For The Poor.



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Landing Assistance network helps residents

happen.

'Once school started, Pegasus Landing workers knocked on our door and told us we had to be out of our apartment the next day for eight hours with all of our belongings moved for a 'deep cleaning," Gravett said. "The less than 24 hours notice was inconvenient."

To Gravett's dismay, there weren't any major changes.

The only difference was that my moldy shower, sink, et cetera had all been caulked over, leaving everything a faded black color," Gravett said.

The problem was explained in a press release the complex

"Since the health and safety of residents is of paramount concern to CAPFA Capital Corp 2000(f) ("Landlord"), as Landlord, it has begun the process of preventing and mitigating these issues, regardless of the condition of any particular unit, in an effort to improve the property

as a whole," the release said.
"As part of this comprehensive effort, maintenance was instructed to clean all units as a preventative measure. The cleaning included all accessible surfaces including the floors, walls, kitchens, bathrooms, and the air conditioning system. All residents were provided with at least the requisite twelve hour notice detailed in their lease agreement and, to the extent possible, a range of the anticipated date and time the cleaning would occur."

Gravett didn't see these proposed efforts come to fruition as the press release described that

they would.
"I had a large water stain across my bedroom ceiling [previously]," said Gravett. "I put in numerous work orders that never got filled until I finally called management. I had to leave multiple messages with a student worker who told me I could not speak with management, but they would relay the message."

"Eventually, management left me a voicemail telling me that for future notice, I could submit work orders online, but that she would take care of it this time," Gravett said.

Gravett frustrated because he did not call management for instructions on submitting a work request, and when maintenance came by the next day, the problem was going to be taken care of with a healthy dose of spray paint, he

After Gravett refused the quick fix and requested a test of the mold, maintenance left, but returned later when Gravett wasn't home and spray painted over the stain anyway.

"I tried numerous more times to file a complaint and to get our apartment tested for water intrusion and mold," Gravett said. "I was turned away."

Gravett broke his lease and moved out without a day to spare after refusing to sign paperwork that would relieve Pegasus Landing of "any and all claims and damages as a result of exposure to mold, including health conditions of related sickness, and waive any assertion of uninhabitability against Landlord for same."

Gravett moved out in time, but other UCF students are stuck in a moldy situation, which conflicts with Pegasus Landing manager Katie Smith's e-mailed explanation of the

"The affiliation with UCF is suspended currently. We did identify some issues of water intrusion in a small amount of apartments. We have relocated students in those apartments and will not be placing anyone in them until all issues are corrected," Smith said.

"The university and the owner are working to come up with a construction plan to strengthen all building moisture barriers as well as correct the identified issues, and they have not come to an agreement as of yet. This is why the affiliation was suspended," Smith wrote in



UCF suspended the contract with Pegasus Landing five months ago, but that hasn't stopped all of the problems residents are experiencing. Pegasus Landing's self-set deadline to have the mold completely removed is less than two weeks away and students are anxious to see the results.

"The primary cause of most of the issues was found to be resident negligence, meaning residents were not cleaning their apartments and not reporting water intrusion issues to management. We are working on the exteriors of two buildings on property right now, and that is why they are covered with tarps. They are working on strengthening moisture barriers and will likely be replacing windows on these buildings."

Eisenberg, who currently lives in building 27, or the "tented building" as some students refer to it, is bothered by more than just the mold.

"Living in the tented building is the most horrible thing I've experienced," said Eisenberg. "There are weird men outside of your window and patio all day long banging and making loud noises from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. They can also come and go as they please into your room with a security guard which makes me

very uneasy."

Other residents have not directly experienced these issues, but live in close proximity to them and hear all about it.

"The building next to mine has mold," said junior history major Brittany Jacobs. "My roommate went to the main office the other day and a kid who lives in the building [that is tented] told the office that while he was sleeping they punched a hole in his wall and dry wall hit him in the face."

"It is ridiculous and I cannot believe that they allow people to live in that building while they are doing construction," Jacobs said. "I've tried to contact the manager, and my roommate, who is an R.A., said that she is ignoring everyone and only talks to people when they have mold in their apartment."

In an effort to help students break their leases, UCF created The Landing Assistance Network to help residents find legal assistance if they wish to get out of their current leases.

UCF itself has no power in breaking leases, as it owns the land Pegasus Landing sits on, but not the buildings.

"UCF owns the ground, but the buildings themselves are operated by CAPFA," said Grant Heston, assistant vice president of UCF News & Information. "They own and are responsible for the maintenance of the buildings. While we can encourage and suggest action, we cannot ourselves take action in terms of the buildings.'

With the complex's self-set deadline to have the mold completely removed less than two weeks away, residents like Eisenberg hope to see some sort of insight gained from the ordeal.

"The entire situation is very disappointing," Eisenberg said. "If I could have one outcome of this, it would be for other students to see the situation I'm living in and having to deal with and hopefully be prepared or take some sort of action right from the start."

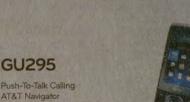
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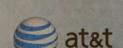
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Bucs, Falcons set for NFC

South bragging rights
Some people don't believe in the
Tampa Bay Buccaneers, despite
Raheem Morris' claim his team is the best in the NFC.

They are doubters despite Tampa's 5-2 record, as good as any team in the

They scoff despite the Bucs' penchant for being at their best late in games as quarterback Josh Freeman, his offensive line, unheralded receivers and a big-play defense rapidly develop.

Those skeptics are the oddsmakers, who still see the Bucs as a middling team and have made them 9.5-point underdogs at Atlanta in a Sunday meeting for the NFC South lead.

'This is not trash-talking. It's a mentality," Morris said of his bold proclamation. "It's a mentality before it's a reality. If you don't believe you can win, you probably won't. And I believe, and my team believes, in us."

The Falcons need to believe, too, because even with their 5-7 proof

because even with their 5-2 record, they've had one stinker (a loss at Philadelphia) and two close games at home against inferior opponents (49ers and Bengals).

Atlanta comes off a bye — the Falcons are 11-10 after an off week and ranks only 27th in pass defense. It's uncertain if CB Dunta Robinson will be back after sustaining a concussion in that brutal collision with Eagles WR DeSean Jackson on Oct. 17.



Rutgers heads to Tampa to continue feud with Bulls

TAMPA — South Florida's Skip Holtz put away the motivational ploys this week. With Rutgers coming to town, all the coach had to do to get the attention of his players was turn on some old

No Big East foe has been tougher on the Bulls than the Scarlet Knights, who've won four straight in their series, including the past two by a combined score of 80-16.

The conference rivals meet again Wednesday night, each hoping to cast aside disappointing starts and hang in what is looming as a wide-open race for the league championship.

"You bring up the word Rutgers around here, everybody kind of goes 'ooh."'You sit down and you start to watch the film and you understand why everybody feels the way they do," Holtz said, noting USF was trounced 31-0 on the road a year ago and 49-16 at home in 2008.

"We have watched those games. Not only have we watched them as a staff, but we watched them as an offense and a defense," Holtz added. "I think it's a little extra motivating for your players when they get out on the field. You start talking about that and remind them daily, 80-16 over two years. You come to work today or get ready to get embarrassed.

Rutgers (4-3, 1-1) also handed the Bulls a crushing 3-point defeat in 2007, when USF (4-3, 1-2) was ranked No. 2 in the country. Last year's debacle

knocked out them out of the Top 25. Naturally, Scarlet Knights coach Greg Schiano played down his team's success

in a series that Rutgers leads 4-1. Freshman Chas Dodd will make his fourth start at quarterback for Rutgers. He won two of his first three, leading fourth-quarter comebacks in each of the wins.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCF vs. Houston preview

On the mend



David Piland has stepped in at quarterback since Case Keenum's injury, and he's stepped in well. The freshman threw five touchdowns last weekend vs. Memphis en route to a 56-17 win.

Banged-up Houston Cougars out for revenge

NICOLE SAAVEDRA Football beat writer

It seems like just yesterday. On Nov. 14, 2009, UCF notched its first victory against a ranked FBS team with a home-

coming victory against Houston. On Friday, they'll head to Houston for a nationally televised rematch against the Cougars in a game that could have conference championship implications.

"They've got home-field advantage, so they're probably going to be a little pumped up," said offensive lineman Theo Goins. "We knocked them out of the rankings last year. I mean, you've probably got a little revenge on your mind."

A victory could secure home-field advantage for the Knights (6-2, 4-0 in C-USA) or Houston (5-3, 4-1) in a potential conference championship game. Last week's



TINA RUSSELL / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

The Knights defense will need to shore up against Houston after allowing 35 points to ECU.

victory against East Carolina gave the Knights the lead in the East Division.

The Cougars, who have the same conference record as SMU, sit on top of the West Division

because they beat the Mustangs head to head.

Houston has captured the lead in the West despite losing star

PLEASE SEE NO ON A7

NEWS AND NOTES

WEAVER GRABS C-USA HONORS Ronnie Weaver was named Conference USA Co-Offensive Player of the Week after his 180-yard, two-touchdown performance vs. East Carolina last

The walk-on running back is just the third Knight, joining Mike Sims-Walker and Kevin Smith, to earn the offensive honors.

UCF: 'NO CONTACT' WITH BIG EAST Despite rampant speculation and rumors linking UCF and the Big East as potential partners in the upcoming conference expansion, the UCF Athletics Association said Wednesday, "There has been no contact with the Big East Conference. We continue to be a proud member of Conference USA."

Big East expansion: This time, it's for real

The Big East voted unanimously Tuesday to expand from eight to 10 football members, and for UCF, the prospects look good for getting one of the nods.

Don't think this is just another instance of UCF tooting its own horn, though. ESPN's Big East reporter Brian Bennett reports that UCF and TCU are the top candidates for the spot.

A Future source also says that TCU has since "fizzled out" as the No. 1 candidate, leaving UCF as the front-runner.

Still, some are skeptical after the unsatisfying ending of the last time the Big



MIKE BALDUCCI

East talked about expansion. Other schools in the running for the bid don't make as much sense as UCF does. Here's a look at the other candidates, and their prospects of a transfer.

East Carolina

Greenville, N.C., doesn't even crack the top-100

PLEASE SEE TCU ON A7

Basketball

Jones leads new Knights

STEVEN RYZEWSKI Men's basketball beat writer

The Knights will welcome the Flagler Saints to the UCF Arena Thursday night in the team's lone exhibition game before opening their 2010-11 sea-

The game, free to the public, is the first opportunity for fans to see the new-look Knights under head coach Donnie Jones.

The exhibition also marks the return of former UCF basketball-great Bo Clark, the longtime head coach for the Saints.

Here are a few questions for the game and the upcoming season:

How fluid will the Knights be?

The Knights have been going hard since practices started in mid-October, learning Jones' new syssmothering tem of defense and a push-theball offense.

Who will the starters be and how will minutes be allotted?

The Knights added some depth in the offsea-son, adding transfers and freshmen recruits to their core returning group. It will be interesting to see how Dave Diakite, Tom Herzog and Dwight McCombs work their way into the rotation.

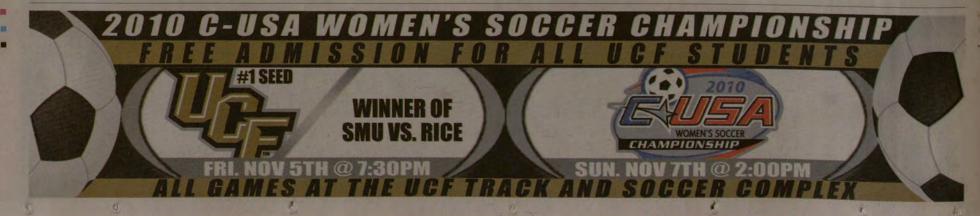
Who will take the floor as starters, and which players coming off the bench will receive significant minutes?

Against a Division II opponent, look for a lot of players to get a chance to show what they can do, and for Jones to experiment with a few different line-up options.

Individual improvements are also something to keep an eye out for tonight.

Specifically, look for junior point guard A.J. Rompza to shoot the ball more than he has in the

PLEASE SEE D-II ON A7



quarterback Case Keenum for the season in September. True freshmen Terrance Broadway and David Piland have shared quarterback duties.

"The quarterbacks have stepped up huge since Case Keenum went out, and it looks like they haven't lost a step," said linebacker Josh Linam. "The offense is still doing really well, so we have to be ready to face both of

those quarterbacks."

The quarterback transition hasn't slowed down Houston offensively. The Cougars are averaging 41.6 points per game, good enough for eighth-best in the country.

"What they are doing is getting the ball in the hands of their good players quickly, and they are making some yards after the catch and they run the ball extremely well," said head coach George O'Leary.

The Cougars also get

huge contributions from receiver Patrick Edwards running back Bryce Beall, who has rushed for 638 yards and 12 touchdowns.

"I don't know if they would have run it as much if the other quarterback stayed healthy, but I do think that they do an excellent job of the getting the run game in and keeping people honest."

UCF, which is ranked in the top 15 nationally in rush, pass, pass efficiency, total and scoring defense, will have to contain wide

and Beall.

Edwards has 42 catches for 639 yards and eight touchdowns.

The Cougars have also been prone to turnovers. They have lost seven of 13 fumbles, and their quarterbacks have thrown nine interceptions.

UCF linebacker Derrick Hallman has forced three fumbles this season. Safety Reggie Weams has three interceptions.

Offensively, UCF will

have the opportunity to capitalize on their running game.

The Knights have rushed for 24 touchdowns this season and are ranked second in C-USA in rushing offense, gaining almost 200 yards per game on the ground. The Cougars' rushing defense is ranked 11th in the conference.

Friday will be UCF's third nationally televised game this season when it is broadcast on ESPN at 8

The Knights received votes in both The Associated Press and USA Today polls and are heading into this week's game with something to prove.

"Anytime you play on TV, the whole nation's watching you, friends, your family back home are watching you," Linam said. "I think it definitely gets you excited to play and just ready to prove to the nation that we're one of the top teams in America."

TCU can do better

media markets in America. For as much as UCF gets anointed the red-headed stepson of "The Big Three," East Carolina plays fifth wheel to Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State and Wake Forest, and has to vie for attention from midmajors such as Appalachian State, Davidson and UNC-Charlotte.

Imagine ECU's recruiting plight: UCF has to compete with Miami, Florida and Florida State for recruits in the best recruiting state in the nation, whereas ECU has to compete in a bad recruiting state with much more established

ECU also doesn't have much of an athletic department aside from football and baseball. The Pirates just aren't a good fit for a transfer.

Texas Christian

It's difficult to imagine TCU take the leap to an automatic-qualifying conference if the conference is one as weak as the Big East.

The Horned Frogs are clearly looking for a bid into the Big 12. There is no benefit for TCU to jump to a weak AQ conference when they can coast through the Mountain West and play in a BCS

game every year.
The Big 12 bid will allow them to compete with the other Texas teams in recruiting, so I don't see any reasonable excuse for TCU to accept a Big East offer, although it is almost certainly the Big East's No. 1 candidate, if given a choice.

'Nova makes the most sense and the least sense to make the jump to the football program.

On one hand, it's already in the Big East for basketball, and its transfer won't add teams to an already monster 16-team league.

On the other hand, 'Nova's small-time FCS football program would be set for five-plus years of development, which goes against what the Big East is hoping for.

The conference is already seen as the lowest on the rung of the AQ conferences, and adding another bottom-feeder for the South Floridas and Connecticuts to destroy seems counter-intuitive



for a conference struggling to prove legitimacy.

Memphis

Want to see a bad football program? Look no further than the Memphis Tigers.

This is a team that got crushed by a Case Keenum-less Houston

This is a team that got dismantled by the vaunted offense of Mississippi State.

Sure, Memphis has a legendary basketball program, but the school is perfectly fine in Conference USA, coasting to a conference title nearly every year.

Not only are they not interested, but the Big East surely won't be interested in a market that small.

Houston

Houston is the only other option that makes sense in terms of athletics and market size.

UH has the disadvantage of sharing recruits with Texas, Texas Tech and Texas A&M (much like UCF's situation), but it has the advantage of the No. 10 market in

Its athletic program is no slouch either. The Cougars are one of just two C-USA football teams to be ranked in the past three years, and they won the C-USA basketball tournament in 2009-10. Geographically, however, there is not much logic in adding a team as far west as Houston, especially for basketball and baseball mid-week

Because of the geography, the competitive advantages, the market size, and all the same clichés you've heard for the past five years about the school (good facilities, huge population, untapped alumni, recruiting hotbed), it would come as a shock if the Knights are passed up in the Big East's expan-

In fact, the Knights may actually shoot some life into the fledgling

D-II team shouldn't pose threat

Has Dave Diakite's jump shot improved?

Diakite, a superb athlete and impressive above-the-rim player, has struggled shooting the ball in the past. We'll see if he has improved on this, putting him in position to take a big

step forward as a starter.

Will the Knights do what they should do against a Division II team in an exhibition game: control the game on both sides of

The Saints, hailing from the Peach Belt Conference, are coming off of an 11-16 record last season, but are returning all five of their starters and are well coached under Clark.

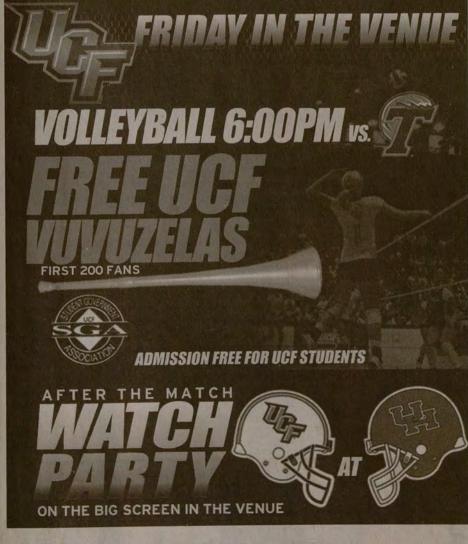
A game against a Division I opponent for the D-II Flagler is a big opportunities for the program to build on, so it's important not to sleep on the Saints.

Tip off is set for 7 p.m. at the UCF Arena.

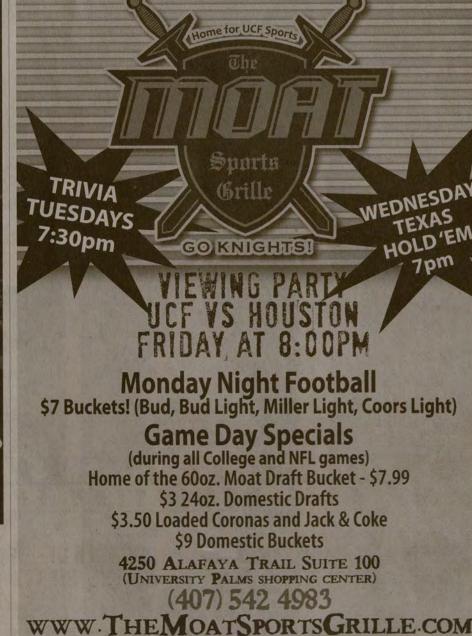


ABIGAIL DONALDSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

A.J. Rompza shoots around during preseason practice at The Venue. The point guard is entering his third season with the Knights.







his weeken

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SATURDAY Anberlin w/ Crash Kings, **Civil Twilight @** House of Blues, **Orlando** 7 p.m. \$18.25 - \$21.25

Up in the air

Jugglers' aerial display makes group a spectacle on campus

LISET VALLE-JIMENEZ Contributing Writer

UCF students Thomas Barrett and Grant Bohl calmly throw one, two, three and even four into the air. The area in front of UCF's bookstore has been dubbed "The Juggler's Green," and it is the place to be if you're hoping to learn some new tricks.

Two years ago, UCF had a juggling club; its remnants have since evolved into the Orlando Juggling Club, said the 23year-old Barrett, a senior aerospace engineering major.

However, Objects in Motion, a group of jugglers at UCF, is something completely different. Barrett took over OIM in Orlando after a friend started the juggling club at the University of Florida, with great success. OIM ensures that the only requirement to become a member is the desire to want to learn.

The group is still in the initial approval process of meeting UCF club requirements. However, they have already performed for Brooklyn Pizza in Ferrell Commons and are constantly getting offers from admirers by the parking

It's hard not to be curious when on your way through the breezeway, where Chris Bendall can be seen casually launching three to four of Harry's Hacky

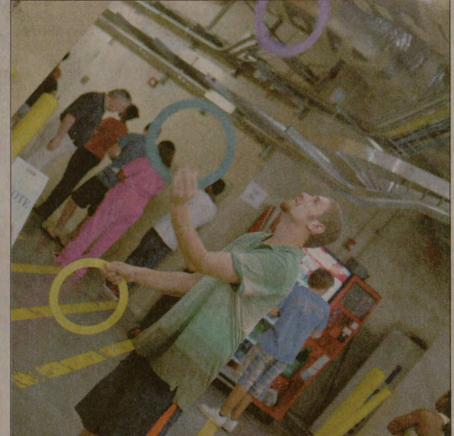
Sacks into the air. "Control is the hardest part," said Bendall, a computer science major and secretary of OIM. Bendall taught himself how to juggle through a Barnes & Noble book, and now five years later, he is teaching his craft to others. A novice can master the basics of juggling with just 30minute practices five times a week.

OIM is a club that you can easily step into; it focuses more on entertaining and teaching and less on formality and

organizational structure. Students who want to learn a particular kind of juggling only need to go to a specific adviser.

There are two advisers for poi, or fire spinning. Beginners are often encouraged to start with glow stringing and gradually transition into fire spinning.

The Diabolo adviser teaches students how to toy with the bendable



Jugglers at UCF find time to hone their craft nearly everywhere on campus, including inside the UCF Arena.

fiberglass tube. Similarly, the club also has a traditional yo-yo adviser.

Barrett, the president of OIM, consid-

ers himself to be a technical juggler and teaches anything from standard ball juggling to ring juggling. Vice President Lei Rizea

performs contact juggling. It's a unique bunch with a common passion: to entertain.

Junior digital media major Jonathan Perry was crowned smile adviser because he always makes people smile.

Junior English language arts education major Stuart Kalver is infamous for playing his guiby National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law

table in front of the Student Union to draw people in, Barrett said. He's also the only one that can officially be called a comic performer.

It's easy to try to compare OIM with other clubs, but they're just not main-

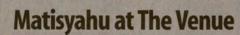
The organization does two types of performances. There are walk-aroundgigs that lack a stage. In those, the performers appear to melt into

the background while still managing to daz-

They also have performances that are done before an audience.

"When you perform, you have to stick to what you know," Barrett said. "You shouldn't drop more than

PLEASE SEE GROUP ON A9







Matisyahu, far left, who had Orange Avenue, left, open for him, played an acoustic set at The Venue on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN VIRGILIO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

The Band Perry keeps success in the family

COREY DAVIS Contributing Writer

Move over Lady Antebellum, there's a new country group looking to storm the charts, all while keeping it in the family.

The Band Perry is a trio of siblings hailing from the mountains of eastern Tennessee.

Their debut self-titled album, released last month, scored them their first top-five billboard hit, and their single "If I Die Young," was their first top-10 hit on the country charts.

With a fusion of country and rock, the trio is looking to gain some new fans that may not be into traditional country music.

Fresh off a nomination for the Country Music Association Awards — for which the show airs on Wednesday on ABC the Future caught up with Kim, Neil and Reid for an interview while they were on the road.

They gave us a glimpse into the sound and the life that make up their family

Central Florida Future: How do you feel to be a new group and already be nominated for an award?

Reid: It's an honor to just be nominated

Kim: It's a huge honor; I'm just going to the award show to be seat filler for all of the winners at the

CFF: I've read that you credit Loretta Lynn and the Rolling Stones as some musical influences to your sound, who are some other ones?

Kim: Musically, we have a broad base of influences. Musically for me, it's Janis Joplin, and Aretha Franklin. But we are also avid readers and love Southern gothic novels. We write with creative language and definitely are influenced by literature, too.

Reid: The Beatles for me. I have always been attracted to the production of the drama.

Neil: Bluegrass. Bryan Sutton did a cut on our album and has inspired me greatly.

CFF: On the website, you are quoted as saying "Family vocal harmonies can't be fabricated." So what exactly does being related bring to the group?

Reid: We were talking about how family harmonies makes things so different than groups with non-relatives.

We know where each of us can go vocally, and our harmonies all flow together.

Kim: We know each other so well; we are stuck with each other. We know each one's range, too.

CFF: What is each of your favorite songs off the album?

Neil: "Walk Me Down The Middle." I'm a hopeless romantic, and the song has a tearjerker melody.

Reid: "Independent." The song actually took a year to write because we hit roadblocks while writ-

The Band Perry, a trio of siblings, are making waves in the country music scene, earning a nomination for Vocal Group of the Year at this year's CMA Awards.

ing. It's a special song for me because it's about getting out on your own for the first time in your life.

Kim: "If I Die Young." The song has helped a lot of people get through things, and it's a sad song. It's also the first song in the live show.

CFF: When did you first hear your song on the

Neil: There is a scene in "Walk The Line" where Johnny Cash hears the song on the radio; that's how we felt.

We were in San Francisco coming from the air-

port, and in the car we heard our song "Hip To My Heart" on the radio.

CFF: What is it like being brothers and sis-

Kim: There are no secrets in The Band Perry. We each have our own space. We also have been traveling our whole lives together. Since I'm the oldest, I'm the bossy sis-

Neil: Since I'm the youngest, I usually like to keep things lighthearted. I'm the court jester of the band, trying to make the others laugh.

CFF: How much is family important to the group; what is the role your parents play in the group?

Kim: Well our parents do everything from chauffeur, getting coffee, being roadies while we're on our tour and more.

They're really supportive, whether it be physically, mentally or spiritually. Our parents are really the fourth and fifth members of the

CFF: How did you come

up with the name for the band?

Neil: We spent three days looking for names everywhere. After about three days, we had sheets and sheets of names listed. We went through the list and didn't like anything.

Kim: We knew that we wanted incorporate our last name, Perry, into the group, so we tried The Perry Band and saw too many Internet references to that, so by process of elimination, we tried The Band Perry.

Group hoping for official status

three times."

Not all juggling is created equal. Each element comes with its own set of obstacles.

"Contact juggling is all about being able to literally balance the ball without actually grabbing it," said Bohl, a

freshman English major. Bohl's poison of choice is four-inch vinyl, UV reactive, red and yelow stage balls that glow orange and green under a black light. Contact juggling is a trick of the eye, and often mistaken

for magic. The ball appears to have a mind of its own as it glides like water over the skin and wanders from fingertips to elbows. Its difficulty is increased by the num-ber of balls that have to be manipulated at once.

"At first I was selfconscious, but now when I see someone looking at me through the reflection in the window I tune into performance mode," Bohl said.

Becoming an official club at UCF has its benefits. According to getinvolveducf.com, registered clubs can apply for student organization funding through the Student Government Association.

For now, OIM has

learned to live without. "We've made our own juggling clubs out of soda bottles and drilled holes in McDonald's playpen balls and added salt to make props," Bendall said. 'Sometimes we'll even collect old tennis court balls for the new members.

Also, space is an issue; juggling rings are sensitive to wind and are better suited indoors.

Props define the kind of performer that you are. Seasoned veterans have managed to collect props along the way, but for eye-catching tricks, websites like jugglingstore.com provide some new tools.

OIM uses juggling clubs that resemble

bowling pins but are less care major Jessica LeClair than a pound and slim at the handle while wider at the

Diabolos are similar to an hourglass and were formerly known as, "the devil on two sticks." The string is used to help the whirling dervish slither from one end to the other.

There is also talk among club members that the newest prop to be showcased this spring is the giraffe unicycle, which can e anywhere from five- to seven feet tall.

OIM creates a low-pressure environment where stage performers can meet, teach and learn from one another.

Pre-clinical allied health

knows from firsthand experience just how challenging juggling can be.

"I was OK with using two balls, but once the third was added, I started doing horrible," said LeClair, 20. 'Chris told me to just throw all three up in the correct motion and let them drop until I had a feeling for throwing the balls."

The process took about

"It's really hard to ask a gler when they became a juggler," Barrett said. "For some, it's when they were first able to juggle three balls. For others, it's when they managed to do tricks with three balls, but I finally saw myself as a juggler when I got five balls down."

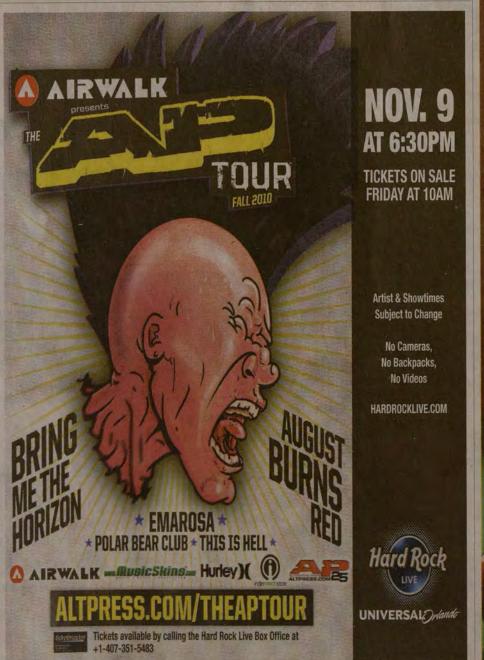
The up-and-coming club can be found on The Juggler's Green or in front of the bookstore Mondays from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. OIM isn't limited to UCF students, and Jay Blanchard Park is a second meeting location from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The club hopes to be up and running by the spring and have once-a-week meetings on Mondays.

OIM is enthusiastic about their future shows. They plan on performing for Equal at UCF's Diva Invasion on Thursday at

"With juggling, it's physically impossible to be unhappy," Barrett said.







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Opinions

The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

OUR STANCE

Push through freshman year

B etween adjusting to life away from home and taking hard classes, freshman year can be the most difficult one for college students.

These struggles, however, can all be overcome.

An article published this week in the *Future* shed light to an issue common across campuses all across the nation: freshmen dropout rates.

According to the article, half of college freshmen nationwide will never earn their diplomas.

Furthermore, most college students who drop out do so either during or after their freshman years.

It's a disappointing statistic, and one we hope to see change in the future.

But beyond the disappointment, it is nice to see the apparent optimism from UCF freshmen who say they won't contribute to the dropout statistic.

Look, freshman year is often challenging, but students need to push through and try to make it to gradua-

As a freshman, it is your responsibility to learn to balance the necessary components of college: class, studying, sleep and, of course, friends.

For some, it may take a while to develop a schedule and become accustomed to college life, which is fine.

But students shouldn't give up just because of a few initial struggles.

There's nothing wrong with taking easy classes your first semester or two until you're used to the college routine, and if you're struggling don't be embarrassed to seek help.

UCF offers many programs and services designed to make the transition into one of the largest schools in the country as smooth as possible for freshmen.

For help with registering for classes or advice on choosing a major, students can visit the First Year Advis-

ing Experience
The Student Academic
Resource Center offers extra
information and tutoring for

many difficult classes.

And there's even a class called College Success that teaches students how to learn in a college environ-

These resources are essential to your success at UCF.

Thanks in part to all of those services, UCF has a freshmen dropout rate that's lower than the national average.

In the past three years, UCF has had an 82-87 percent retention rate for freshmen.

Although UCF's numbers beat the national average, we hope that number continues to grow until 100 percent of

The Future encourages comments from readers. In order to be considered for publication,

letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words; we may edit for length. Submit them online

at www.CentralFloridaFuture.com or fax them to 407-447-4556. Questions? Call 407-447-4558.

UCF freshmen not just make it to their second years, but make it to graduation as well.

College is an investment in your future, and to only spend a semester or two in school is a waste of both time and money.

It doesn't make sense to spend thousands of dollars on an education you don't intend to finish.

And for any freshmen out there struggling, is does get easier, and there are many people out there willing to help you.

Students need to take advantage of the services the university offers, regardless of whether they're strug-

These services will help you on your path to graduation, and the individuals working there will often be able to offer tips on both a personal and academic level.

Sometimes life gets in the way of academics. Extended illness or an unplanned circumstance may cause a student to have to take a semester or so off, which is acceptable.

Just don't let a short break stop you from earning your degree.

To all the freshmen out there: good luck, and we hope the best for you on your path to crossing the graduation stage.

College is a great experience, and right now is just the beginning.



TLC's Palin ploy makes shoddy TV

As if Sarah Palin hasn't been in the spotlight enough for the past two years, she's now going to be a regular "star" on the TLC network starting this month.

Palin is commonly known for being a former vice presidential candidate and for having a teenage daughter who herself has a daughter.

All would have been good and well if we could have just stopped it right there and not continued giving Palin any more reasons to be famous.

But no, TLC had to go and give her the 9 p.m. time slot on Sundays beginning Nov. 14.

Palin's television show — "Sarah Palin's Alaska" — is an eight-week television event that documents the Alaskan frontier through the eyes of none other than Palin herself.

"Sarah is joined by various family members as she shares the state she knows and loves," The TLC website summarizes the show. "Along with Alaska's great wilderness, the Palins encounter Alaska's fascinating residents and share what it takes to thrive in the country's largest state."

Sounds harmless. However, I still don't understand why they gave Palin her own show.

If it's all about the geography and the people of Alaska then why not just do a series on the documentation of just that?

No Palin necessary.

But that's not what this show is going to be all about, whether the producers want us to believe it or



JORDAN SWANSON

This show is most definitely going to be about Palin and her family, and I doubt viewers are going to get the insight to Alaska the show promises.

A People.com article reads, "According to everyone from Variety to the Washington Post, the series Sarah Palin's Alaska has been picked up

for a reported \$1 million-plus per episode."

I wish this was a joke, but sadly I believe it, because that's just, well, America for you. Dishing out outrageous amounts of money for a show like this.

It baffles me how television shows like this one can make all this money because someone like Palin is the "star" of the show.

And yes, I put star in quotes because she isn't really a star, most people just treat her like one.

If Palin is so passionate about he

If Palin is so passionate about her state, like she leads us to believe, then I would expect that the money the show makes would go toward just that, the state of Alaska.

I don't ever see this happening,

though, because I feel that this show was produced mainly for reasons not stated in print.

Of course there's nothing I can do about any of this.

Those who like Palin will tune into the show and those who don't care for her won't.

I just hope that this doesn't give other television stations the idea to produce shows centered around the lives of other popular ex-political

One is way more than enough.

Time for military to be open

ver the past few months, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy has gained quite a bit of attention thanks to several court hearings.

Last month, an injunction by a federal judge was put on the policy, which meant the military would be able to recruit openly gay citizens. On Monday, the 9th Cir-

On Monday, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the injunction, meaning "don't ask, don't tell" is in effect once again.

The policy has been used in the military for the past 17 years; its purpose is to allow gay men and women to join the military, as long as they don't make their sexuality known to their fellow soldiers.

If a man or woman is suspected of being homosexual or bisexual, they can be investigated and possibly discharged from services

charged from service.

According to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, 14,000 service members
have been discharged since
the law was put into place in

When the injunction on the policy was placed on Oct. 12, we were proud of the major stride our government and the LGBTQ community had made.

Sadly that celebration was cut short when earlier this

week the courts decided to continue the policy for the time being.

We think sexual orientation and patriotism are two independent concepts; a person's sexuality should not bar them from defending their country.

It is unconstitutional for courts to tell people what they can and cannot disclose while serving in the armed forces.

If someone wishes to be open about their sexuality then it should be their right to do so without receiving ridicule or fear of losing their position.

Removing "don't ask, don't tell" wouldn't mean all homosexual military members would have to be open about their sexuality; men and women could remain in the closet if they wished.

To not allow men and women of a specific sexual orientation to openly serve in the military is a clear form of discrimination, one that shouldn't be tolerated in a country as progressive as ours.

Although the policy is currently in place, many believe it won't be for long.

After the original injunction that halted the enforcement of "don't ask, don't tell" was placed in October, the U.S. Department of Justice filed an objection saying the

military needed a sufficient amount of time to repeal the policy in order to avoid "con-

fusion or uncertainty."

"A court should not compel the Executive to implement an immediate cessation of the 17-year-old policy without regard for any effect such an abrupt change might have on the military's operations, particularly at a time when the military is engaged in combat operations," the Department of Justice's objection read.

We think 17 years is long enough for the government to infringe on the freedom of speech for many of its service men and women.

We understand that the legal process for repealing the policy is a lengthy one, but President Barack Obama did promise its termination, and we hope that process starts soon.

Gay, lesbian and bisexual people have just as much right to serve in the military as any heterosexual individual, and they shouldn't have to live in secrecy or fear while defending our country.

We hope to see the permanent repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" as quickly as possible for the sake of all the openly gay men and women who wish to serve in the military and the LGBTQ community as a whole.

MAN ON THE STREET

THE WORD AROUND CAMPUS

'Did you vote in Tuesday's midterm election?'



JAY HNEY
Psychology, sophomore
"No, I was busy."

MARIA CORAL

Finance, sophomore

"No, I don't know much about

the candidates."



KATIE GHALY Molecular biography, senior "Yes, I've read a bit about them."



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REBEKAH TORRES Communications, junior "No, haven't gotten any info on



JEANNIE CHUNG Film, senior "No, I'm not interested in politics."

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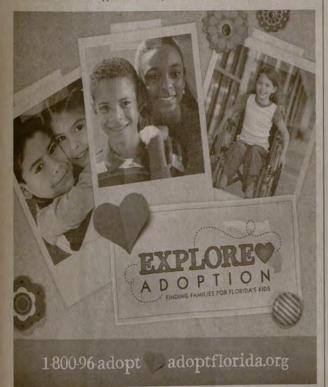
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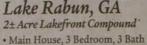
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